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HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Mitic goes on blender bender

INNES WARD

City councillor expenses $379 to fill taxpayers' coffee mugs

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Jody Mitic has issued an open invitation to people from all over Ottawa to drop by his office for a cup of bulletproof coffee, courtesy of the $379.99 blender he bought with taxpayers' dollars.

The Innes ward councillor bought the Blendtec machine at Costco last April, according to expense documents Metro obtained through Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

He also bought $20.99 worth of coconut oil, which is an ingredient in bulletproof coffee.

As the city's sports commissioner, Mitic says he encourages a healthy diet and lifestyle.

"I don't see it as excessive. I see it as an asset to the city. Anyone can use it," he said of the blender, noting he has an open-door policy for anyone who wants to try a mug.

Mitic said the blender abides by expense rules, but city staffers likely frowned upon the purchase for the media scrutiny it could entail.

Mitic has been making headlines for buying a TV, coffee maker and fridge on the taxpayers' dime. But he argues that he thought the office could use a refresh.

For more on Jody Mitic, go to metronews.ca

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Your essential daily news

Found: 80,000-120,000-year-old human teeth. **World**

Strategic voting debated

ELECTION 2015

Experts say it's a product of the electoral system

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

When it comes to strategic voting, Anita Vandenbeld is in an interesting position.

As the Liberal candidate in Ottawa West—Nepean, Vandenbeld would benefit from people voting for her mainly because they want to defeat the Conservative government.

But as an expert on democratic governance who has advised nascent democracies around the world, she doesn't like it.

"I hate the fact that there are people who are saying 'I'd rather vote for another party, but I want to vote for you because I don't want the Conservatives,'" she said in an interview earlier this month. "I would much rather people elect me because I'm the best candidate, because they are voting for something."

More than any election in recent memory, this campaign has featured efforts to convince anti-Conservative voters to cast their ballots strategically — in other words, vote for the candidate best-placed to defeat the Tories, even if that candidate isn't their top choice.

Proponents of strategic voting say it's a product of Canada's broken first-past-the-post electoral system.

"In the last election, 39% of people voted for the Conservatives and they got 100% of the power," said Amara Possian, who is running the Vote Together campaign for the advocacy group LeadNow. "The system is broken. We have to do this."

Vandenbeld, whose party has vowed to replace the first-past-the-post system, agrees.

> **I would much rather people elect me because I'm the best candidate, because they are voting for something.**
> Anita Vandenbeld

"Strategic voting is the result of the kind of electoral system we have," she said. "But there are many, many electoral systems where you can have a result that more closely reflects the will of the population."

Jonathan Rose, an associate professor of political studies at Queen's University, said strategic voting historically is done by a very small minority of voters.

"The kinds of mass campaigns you're seeing now don't really have much impact," he said.

Conservative leader Stephen Harper seemed to take that view on Tuesday when asked about the subject.

"Nobody votes strategically," Harper told CP24 in an interview. "People vote for what they think is best for them."

But Possian said the Vote Together campaign is more sophisticated than previous efforts. LeadNow has polled locally in 37 ridings, have crowd-funded more than $100,000 for such efforts, and they have canvassers getting out the vote.

"We might actually have an impact this time," she said.

They announced 16 recommended candidates on the weekend. Possian said the group plans to announce seven more riding recommendations on Thursday, and another five to seven on Saturday.

Orléans NDP candidate Nancy Tremblay has been an outspoken critic of calls for voters to cast strategic ballots. She says it's "undemocratic" to urge voters to cast a ballot against who they don't want, rather than for who they want.

"It's sad, because it's almost like you're selling your vote to the highest bidder," she said.

Her colleague, Ottawa—Vanier NDP candidate Emilie Taman, said she's concerned strategic voting puts too much power in pollsters' hands.

"As much as I share people's sense of urgency about defeating the Conservatives, I think people also deserve to have the best representation that's available to them, both nationally and in their riding," she said.

Vandenbeld also suggested the idea of voting against something rather than for something is detrimental to the political process.

"I think when people vote against something, it's not a great incentive, because you don't get excited about something when you're voting against," she said. "When you vote for something it's a more positive experience for people, and you might get more people interested in politics."

But Possian said she sees strategic voting as a way of asserting someone's voting preference.

"I think that people are voting for something," she said. "Most voters have a preference, and for the majority of people, Stephen Harper is not it."

Ottawa West—Nepean candidate Anita Vandenbeld says strategic voting is detrimental to the political process. CONTRIBUTED

RIDINGS

Advance polls popular

Two Ottawa ridings had the highest voter turnout of all 338 ridings across the country during advance polling over Thanksgiving weekend.

Ottawa Centre had the highest advance turnout in the country, with 18,751 voters casting their ballots last weekend, according to preliminary estimates released by Elections Canada on Wednesday.

Orléans, with 18,741 advance voters, was a close second.

Victoria, in B.C., had the third-highest turnout, with 17,501 voters. The Quebec City riding of Louis-Saint-Laurent had 17,494 advance voters.

Overall, some 3.6 million voters cast their ballots at advance polls over the weekend from Oct. 9 to 12, a 71 per cent increase from the advance voting figures in the 2011 election.

Elections Canada said that's partly due to an additional advance voting day this time around.

Thanksgiving Monday was the busiest advance voting day ever; 1.2 million people voted. Friday was the second-busiest, when 850,000

In Ottawa Centre, NDP incumbent Paul Dewar is being challenged by Liberal candidate Catherine McKenna. Damian Konstantinakos is the Conservative candidate.

In Orléans, Liberal star candidate Andrew Leslie is hoping to unseat Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau.

MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

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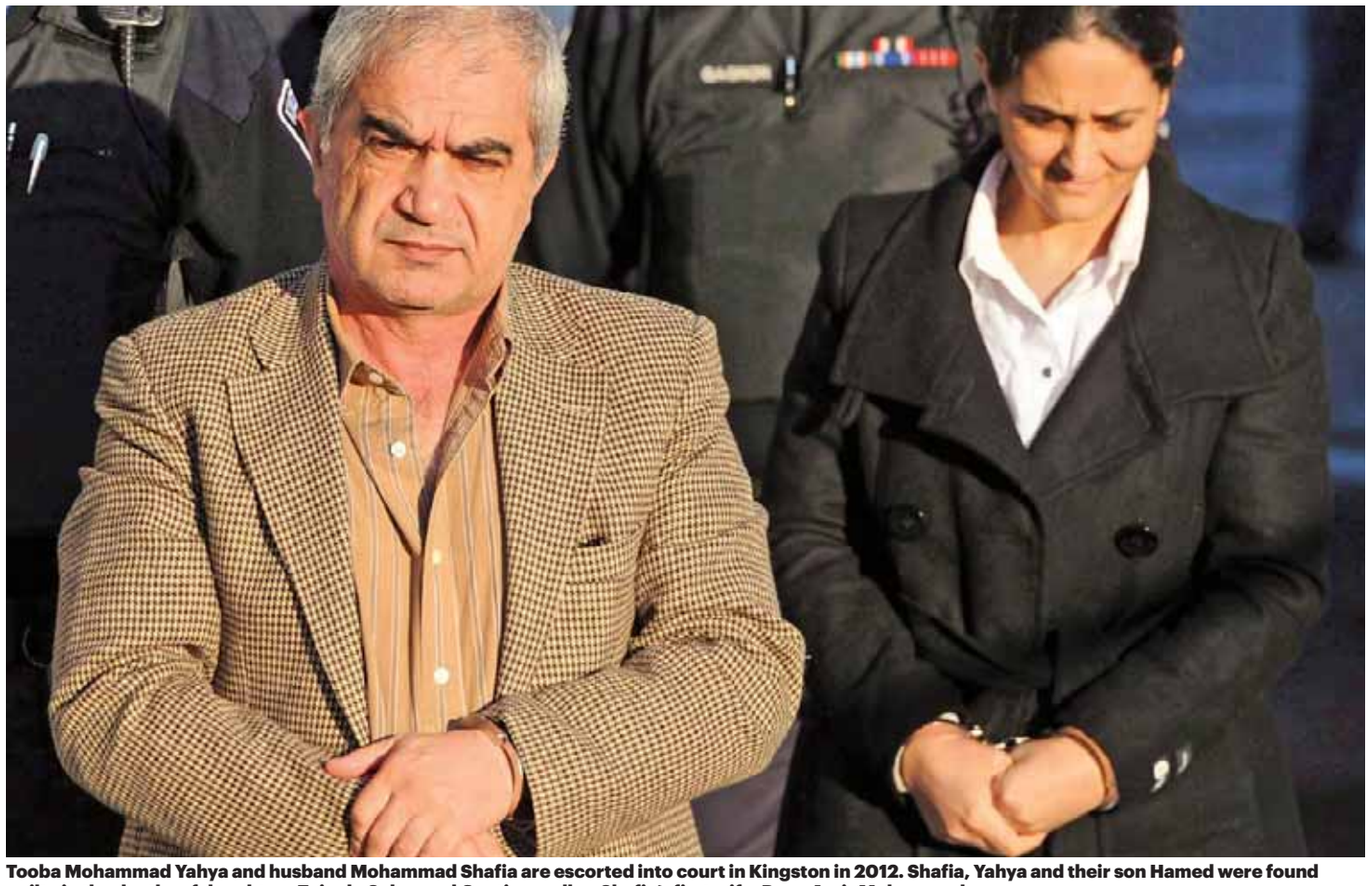
Convicted family seeks retrial

MASS MURDER

Trio says jury was prejudiced by expert in honour killing



Tooba Mohammad Yahya and husband Mohammad Shafia are escorted into court in Kingston in 2012. Shafia, Yahya and their son Hamed were found guilty in the deaths of daughters Zainab, Sahar and Geeti as well as Shafia's first wife, Rona Amir Mohammad. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A father, mother and their son, all convicted of first-degree murder in the deaths of four family members, have asked Ontario's highest court for new trials.

In documents filed with the Ontario Court of Appeal, Mohammad Shafia, his wife Tooba Yahya and their son Hamed argue, among other issues, that their trial judge should not have admitted "overwhelmingly prejudicial" evidence from an expert on so-called honour killings.

The three were each convicted in January 2012 of four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of daughters Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and Geeti, 13, and Shafia's first wife in a polygamous marriage, 52-year-old Rona Amir Mohammad.

The victims' bodies were found on June 30, 2009, in a car at the bottom of the Rideau Canal in Kingston.

The Crown at the trial asserted the murders were committed after the girls "shamed" the family by dating and acting out and Amir Mohammad was simply disposed of.

While testifying, Shafia and Yahya denied any responsibility for the deaths. Hamed's lawyer told the court that Hamed had told an undercover private investigator he was present when the car carrying the victims went into the canal and had witnessed a tragic accident but didn't call police at the time.

The trial judge described the killings as being motivated by the Shafias' "twisted concept of honour."

In their 110-page submission to the appeal court that meticulously reviewed the details of the case, Shafia, his wife and his son argued through their lawyers that they were subjected to "cultural stereotyping" at their trial.

In particular, they took issue with the admission at trial of expert testimony on honour killings from Shahrzad Mojab, a professor at the University of Toronto.

"The appellants submit that Dr. Mojab's evidence was overwhelmingly prejudicial and should not have been admitted," their lawyers said.

"Her evidence invited the jury to improperly find that the appellants had a disposition to commit family homicide as a result of their cultural background and to reject their claim that they held a different set of cultural beliefs."

The lawyers went on to argue that the jury was invited to compare the events in the case with Mojab's anecdotal accounts of entirely unrelated murders to fit the case within the template of culturally inspired homicides.

They also argued that the trial judge did not properly assess the admissibility of certain hearsay statements made by the four female victims before their death and did not instruct the jury properly on them.

"It was critical that the jurors be told how this evidence could and could not properly be used, even if this meant that the jury charge would be somewhat more complex," they said.

Additionally, the lawyers argued the trial judge erred by not providing sufficient direction to the jury regarding the Crown's theory that Yahya could be found guilty of murder on the basis that her alleged failure to protect her children from her husband made her causally responsible for their deaths.

Shafia, Yahya and Hamed have been in custody since their arrests on July 22, 2009 and will have to spend at least 25 years from that date behind bars before they can apply for full parole.

The family immigrated to Canada from Afghanistan and settled in Montreal, where Shafia was a successful businessman. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Drivers can't drum, must move

TAXIS

Loud noises interfering with security and safety

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A judge ruled Wednesday that locked-out airport taxi drivers must relocate and refrain from banging on drums if they want to continue picketing at the Ottawa airport.

Protesters will now have to move to a grassy area on the east side the building between the two entrances to the parkade.

They also cannot use drums or "improvised percussive devices or any other instruments or any noise amplification devices," wrote Superior Court Justice Robert Beaudoin in his ruling.

The ruling came down after the union representing Airport Taxi YOW drivers went to court to reverse a Aug. 14 injunction which prohibited the use of amplified devices to generate noise. Drivers resorted to banging on 45-gallon steel drums and metal barricades — some of which were damaged — to attract attention to their cause, court heard Tuesday. The labour dispute between Unifor and Coventry Connections and the airport authority has lasted more than nine weeks.

But the airport authority said the loud noise was not only interfering with security teams from communicating on their radios and cellphones, it was also a health and safety concern.

Sound recordings on Sept. 23 exceeded levels in the Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

"In an emergency of any kind, announcements must be made and heard. That loud noises are permitted in the vicinity of the airport creates a risk that they will be drowned out," ruled Beaudoin.

The noise was loud enough that some taxi drivers themselves wore ear protection at the picket line to drown out the sound of the drumming.

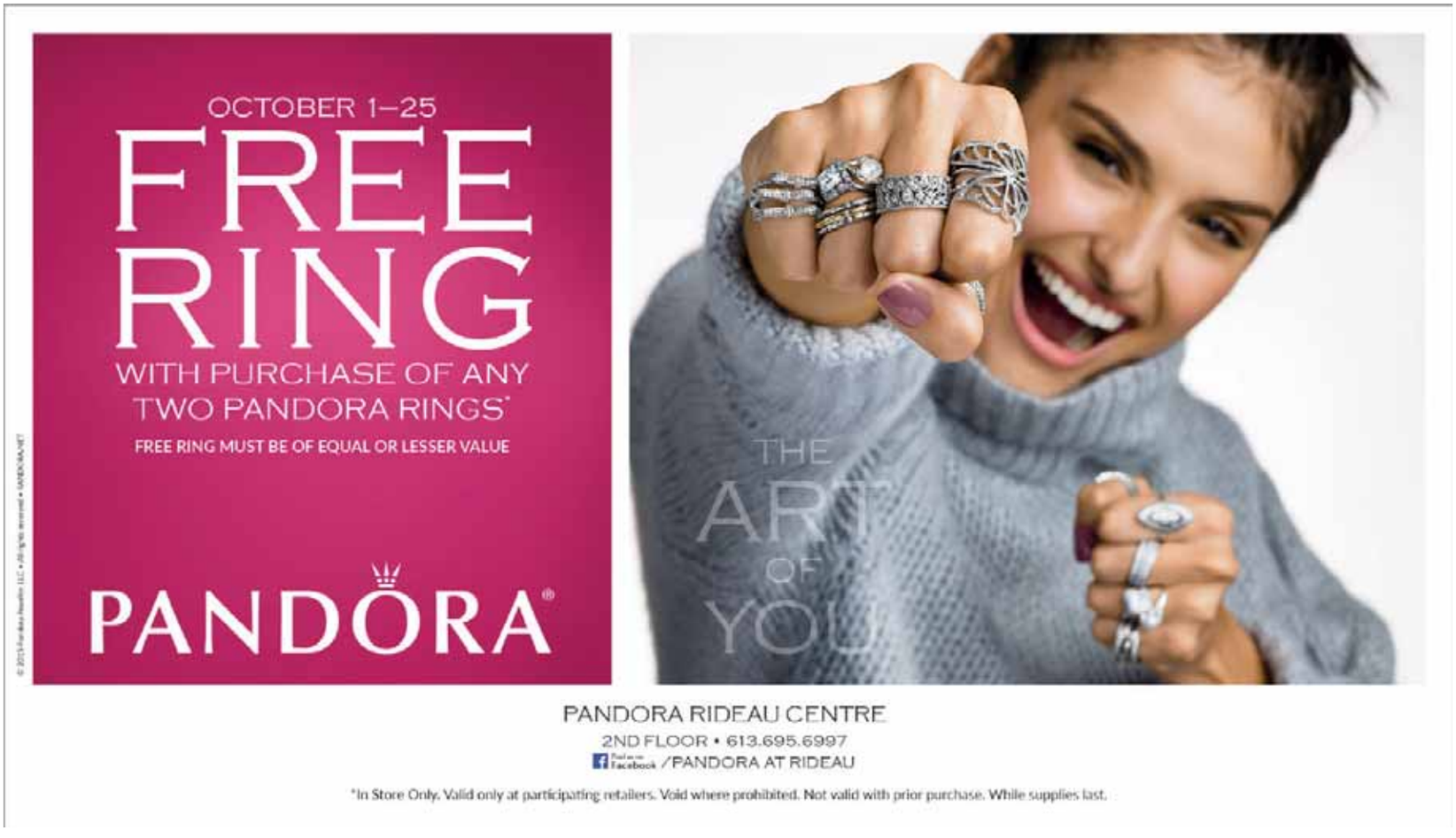
Airport taxi drivers are protesting an increase in airport pickup fees from about $1.50 to approximately $5 per ride.

In a statement, airport spokeswoman Krista Kealey said the airport authority is "very pleased" with the ruling.

"This ruling confirms the importance of maintaining a safe and secure airport environment for our clients, employees and visitors. We trust that the union will respect the ruling, and adhere to the letter of its terms."

A judge ruled on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015 that locked-out airport taxi drivers can no longer bang on drums at the picket line in front of the airport arrivals terminal. JOE LOFARO/METRO

> **"This ruling confirms the importance of maintaining a safe and secure airport environment.**
> Krista Kealey



Transitway closures to hit area sooner

TRANSPORTATION

Bus routes to change for Rideau River bridge repairs

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

More light rail transit construction means bus route changes will be rolling down the Transitway sooner than expected.

The eastbound stretch of the Transitway between Lees and Hurdman stations will be closed starting on Dec. 20 of this year, rather than April as was originally planned.

Starting on Jan. 17, 2016, the stretch between Merton Street and Empress Avenue will also shut down.

> **If it was going to tip significantly, we believed it would have tipped in June ... it did not do that.**
> John Manconi

These changes are due to necessary repairs for the bridge crossing the Rideau River.

City staffers said it was still unknown how much the fix-ups will cost, but a contingency fund will pay the bills.

This will affect a small proportion of OC Transpo's passengers. Of the 340,000 daily customer trips, 13 per cent will experience four-minute delays and two per cent will have faster commute times along the Lees-to-Hurdman leg. As for Merton to Empress, 14 per cent of passengers will experience three minutes of delays.

Transit services general manager John Manconi does not appear worried about passengers getting fed up with all the route changes and ditching the bus service.

Manconi said the city was carefully monitoring ridership during the big Transitway shutdown between Blair and Hurdman last June. The levels remained "flat," he said.

"If it was going to tip significantly, we believed it would have tipped in June," Manconi said. "It did not do that."

After the construction, passengers will start boarding the new Confederation Line in 2018.

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ROWAN STRINGER

City names rugby field after teenager

Kathleen and Gordon Stringer were seen smiling in the crowd at Ottawa city council on Wednesday, as councillors voted to rename a rugby field "Rowan's Pitch" after their daughter.

They were not the only two happy with the news.

"I can't help but think that Rowan has a huge smile on her face right now," Kathleen Stringer told reporters.

The 17-year-old John McCrae Secondary School student died in May 2013, after suffering several concussions while playing rugby with her school team. During the summer months, she practiced rugby at the Ken Ross Park field that now bears her name.

Her parents hope the name will resonate with future budding rugby players and help raise awareness on head injuries and concussions in contact sports.

"That will be sort of a way to start the discussion about why it's named Rowan's Pitch and why we need to play the great sport of rugby with respect," said Kathleen Stringer.

> **I can't help but think that Rowan has a huge smile on her face right now.**
> Kathleen Stringer

Rowan Stringer died after suffering multiple concussions from playing rugby.
FACEBOOK

A coroner's inquest into Rowan Stringer's death lead to 49 recommendations for concussion awareness and education, including Rowan's Law. The law would strike an expert advisory committee to oversee the implementation of the Ontario-specific recommendations.

Nepean-Carleton MPP Lisa MacLeod is going to table Rowan's Law in December. She said she has support from all three parties in the legislature.

"There's a lot of support out there. I think people see it's a common sense initiative that needs to happen," she said.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

IN BRIEF

Curtain falls on Opera Lyra following low ticket sales

After 31 years in the business in the performing arts, Ottawa's Opera Lyra is shutting down for good effective Wednesday.

The Opera's board of directors announced its "deep regret" in making the decision, citing cash shortages and a mounting deficit as the main reasons for the independent opera company's closure.

Opera Lyra cancelled two shows in 2011 for financial reasons and attempted to attract a younger crowd last spring with the production of The Marriage of Figaro at the National Arts Centre.

The board said Wednesday it would explore its options to keep opera alive in Ottawa-Gatineau.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Would-be Tory candidate cries foul

ELECTION 2015

Man claims he was denied by Conservatives for ethnicity

The Conservative party says it owes no one an explanation for disqualifying Ade Olumide as a potential candidate in Kanata-Carleton.

Olumide said he was removed from the nomination process due to his ethnicity.

Olumide made that claim in the Federal Court of Appeal on Oct. 13 in response to the federal court's previous decision that it had no jurisdiction when it came to his disqualification as a potential Conservative candidate this summer.

"The root cause of that is my ethnic origin," he said to three judges in the hopes of providing context to his disqualification, in which he hopes the federal court can intervene.

He suggested the Conservatives decided to, "'Let him run (for the nomination) as long as he can't win.'"

Though the nominees are vetted by party insiders, Olumide said he would have won because he signed up many more new Conservative party members than the other nominees.

However, he was disqualified from participating in the party's nomination meeting as a potential candidate. The meeting saw Kanata small business owner Walter Pamic defeat Ted Hurley and Ann Matejicka.

In court, Olumide also said the party refused to give a reason why he was disqualified, though the party's legal representative said no reason need be given.

The three judges explained several times that decisions on such allegations were not within the purview of the court of appeal, which could only determine whether the federal court had jurisdiction over the case.

The legal representative for the Conservative Party of Canada said that under the Elections Act, a new candidate cannot be allowed at this point, and for that reason and others, the Superior Court should have jurisdiction over the matter.

Though no decision was determined on Oct. 13, Olumide said the appeal would not conclude his fight.

"This is not the end of the matter," he said.

ADAM KVETON/METROLAND MEDIA

Emilie Taman, the NDP candidate in Ottawa-Vanier. CONTRIBUTED

NDP

'Disappointed,' not deterred: Taman

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Former federal prosecutor and current NDP candidate Emilie Taman said she's "disappointed" by a Federal Court ruling that said she couldn't keep her job and run for office.

When she sought the NDP nomination in Ottawa—Vanier, Taman defied a Public Service Commission ruling that refused to grant her leave of absence to run for office, a move which got her fired as a prosecutor.

She applied for judicial review, arguing the decision infringed upon her Charter rights to freedom of expression and to run for elected office.

In a ruling released this week, the Federal Court dismissed that application. Taman said she doesn't want the decision to heighten the "chill felt across the public service" about engaging in political activity.

The goal of the review wasn't to get her job back, though there's an ongoing grievance process on that front. Rather, Taman was seeking clarity on the rules. In the ruling, Justice Catherine Kane writes that "although the decision of the Commission limits the applicant's Charter rights, it does reflect a proportionate balancing of the Charter Rights at stake, to engage in political activity and run for office, with the principle of political impartiality in the public service."

Taman hasn't yet decided whether to appeal the decision.

IN BRIEF

Locks shut for season

Parks Canada has announced the Rideau Canal's 24 lock stations between Ottawa and Kingston are now closed for the season.

Parks Canada staff closes the locks every year in mid-October and drains the canal of most of its water to prepare it for freezing and to reduce the possibility of spring floods.

Parks Canada reminds the public that if they use the canal during the winter months it is at their own risk.

ALEX ROBINSON/METROLAND MEDIA

Spoor brings back the beats

BACKSTAGE PASS

DJ collective poised to revive the old techno scene

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Sasha Vreca doesn't care if his pop-up monthly techno parties last a lifetime — he's more focused on the fleeting moment.

It's the entire idea behind Spoor, a concept developed by a group of artists, DJs and curators that have been reviving the old school techno scene of the '90s — beat, by beat, by beat.

"Spoor itself is a travelling concept, which takes over a vacant space, transforms it for one night and hosts this gathering of artists. And before the sunrise, we clear everything out," says Vreca, who creates immersive and stunning video projections and lighting at Spoor events.

Spoor DJ Mat Thibault spins during the Deep End series earlier this year. ALJOSA ALIJAGIC/FOR METRO

"When I speak about techno, I speak about it in a cultural sense. I approach it not as a simple rave or a party, I see it as a cultural experience. I see it as part reeducating the crowd and part discovery in the same sense."

The deep original techno rhythms of Detroit and Berlin rang rampant in Ottawa in the late '80s and early '90s until the city created an All Night Dance Event License, which made it harder for promoters to throw raves.

The scene eventually dried up, with only small pockets of techno and Chicago house crusaders pushing those beats. But the revival is alive, according to Vreca. Spoor launched last winter and the parties have been getting bigger, louder, and deeper.

> **It was necessary to make it appealing and stay within the philosophy of what techno is.**
> Sasha Vreca

"I think there was a really strong nostalgia from the older crowd who used to be very active in Ottawa, but, at least 50 per cent of the crowd was totally oblivious to what we were presenting," said Vreca, adding that part of the challenge of reviving an old school club genre is selling it to those who have never heard it before: the twenty-somethings who grew up on massive corporate music festivals, over-the-top DJs and the annoying blips and blips of modern EDM.

"It was necessary to make it appealing and stay within the philosophy of what techno is."

Spoor will be slithering its way into Multi Social Room this Friday night for its Deep End series, a monthly dance party exploring deep techno, minimal and house from the likes of Spoor founders DJ M (Dave Mayer) and Woerks (Elena Bales). The two local DJs will spin up techno treats, minimal munchies and house sweets all night before special guest DJ Ashley Gauthier mixes things up with one of his genre-spanning sets that will have old school ravers busting out their liquid dances.

"I have never in six years had the opportunity to book him," said an excited Vreca of the Ottawa-based DJ and Producer Gauthier.

"He's a little bit deeper techno and house and a little playful. I think his sound is a little bit more reminiscent of the old school house movement that initiated out of Chicago and New York."

The doors open at 10 with tickets at $10.

Bring a life-jacket, you'll be diving head first into the Deep End.

Federal election day is Monday

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Ready to vote
October 19, 2015

Elections Canada

Shopify CFO Russ Jones, center, rings a ceremonial bell as the Canadian company's IPO begins trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP/RICHARD DREW

Shopify, Uber announce new delivery plan

UBERRUSH

Partnership to offer same-day service in three major U.S. cities

Shopify and Uber are working together to offer same-day local delivery starting today in three major U.S. cities.

The UberRUSH program will be initially available to a select number of Shopify's merchant clients in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco but it's expected to go to other cities over time.

Ottawa-based Shopify says merchants enrolled in the program will be able to provide their customers with the option of requesting an Uber pick-up and delivery, which can be tracked with an app.

Uber offers a controversial alternative to conventional taxi service in many cities by using its mobile app and analytics to connect customers with drivers. The system adjusts ride prices to reflect supply and demand.

Shopify provides software for designing, building, and managing sales across the web, mobile applications and stores.

$43.22

Shopify's shares closed Tuesday at C$43.22 in Toronto, up from a low of C$30 on May 21.

The company completed a successful public stock offering in late May on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges.

Its Uber deal follows a partnership last month with Amazon, which has agreed to provide Shopify merchants with a gateway to the Seattle-based e-commerce giant's systems and warehouses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Criteria to be released for police scholarship

Ottawa police will release criteria for its annual Thomas G. Flanagan S.C. Scholarship on Sunday, in recognition of Persons Day.

Police said the $1,500 scholarship is awarded to a woman "from a racialized or aboriginal community" who is interested in a career at the Ottawa Police Service and is enrolled in post-secondary studies.

Persons Day on Oct. 18 marks the day when Britain formally declared women as person under the law.

The deadline for the scholarship will be in February 2016. METRO

CO-OP

West End Well looking for fresh start

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

While the West End Well has given up on its attempt at a co-op grocery store, the optimism of their 750 member-owners hasn't run dry yet.

Last month the co-op voted to keep going with a new plan, and in the meantime they are looking for a "social entrepreneur" with an established business to rent the space for $6,250 a month.

The organization put out a call on Wednesday asking businesses to submit a proposal for the 2,500-square-foot ground floor space and commercial kitchen in Hintonburg.

The board isn't sure whether it will resemble a co-working space or a business incubator, but multiple businesses are welcome to pitch together.

"(The model) is very much in the works," said Kirsten Brouse, a board member with the organization.

"Renting the space is an important interim step, so that we can figure out what the next step is for the co-op. That might be two or three more years of renting out that space to a viable business," she said.

The original model for the store was a grocery store and café, with community meeting spaces built in. The shop and eatery was financially unsuccessful and closed last month.

Brouse said the rental cost is on par with neighbourhood and is hoping the walkable location will attract interest.

"Right now we want a business that has some shared values that's able to make a go of that space under their own power for the next little while," she said.

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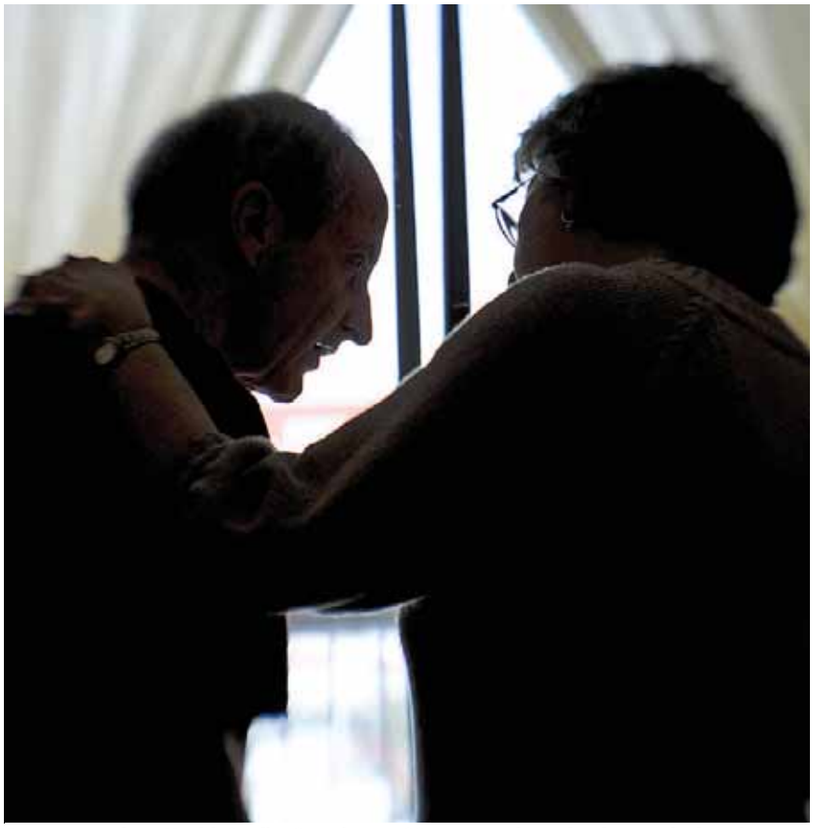

A new report from Health Quality Ontario says 33 per cent of people who care for loved ones at home say they are too stressed out to do it any longer. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Caregivers report stress skyrocketing

HEALTH REPORT

Many people caring for loved ones feel angry, upset

A new report says the stress load on people helping to care for an elderly or sick family member or friend has more than doubled in Ontario in the past four years.

Health Quality Ontario says 33 per cent of people who care for loved ones at home reported feeling distress, anger or depression in 2013-14, up from 16 per cent in 2008-09.

The government advisory group says almost all home care patients rely on an informal caregiver for everything from shopping and transportation to managing medications and helping with personal care.

However, one-third of those caregivers say they are too stressed out to do it any longer.

The annual report from Health Quality Ontario also found patients in hospitals are waiting an average of 69 days to get into long-term care homes — an increase of nearly three weeks from four years earlier.

People at home who need a long-term care bed have seen the wait reduced by 74 days, but they're still waiting an average of 116 days.

116 days

The average length of time that patients living at home wait to get into a long-term care home, according to a new report from Health Quality Ontario.

Health Quality Ontario reports most of its home care indicators did not improve year over year, but it also found 92 per cent of patients said they had a positive experience with the services they received.

Other findings from the 2015 annual report show:

- Ontario's smoking rate fell from 21 to 18 per cent between 2007 and 2013.
- Only 44 per cent of adults can see their doctor on the same day or next day when they are sick.
- The number of family doctors increased from 93 to 107 per 100,000 residents.
- The number of specialists increased from 85 to 93 per 100,000 residents.
- Of all the adults with diabetes, one third do not get regular eye exams that can prevent diabetes-related blindness.
- Wait times for cancer surgeries and hip and knee replacements held steady, but more people are getting those procedures each year within target deadlines.

Health Quality Ontario says flat results are not always a bad sign, and the growing size and complexity of Ontario's population means they might represent progress.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Host William Shatner performs as he takes to the stage during the Juno Awards in Ottawa in April 2012. The Junos are coming back to Ottawa in 2017. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa set to host 2017 JUNO awards

MUSIC

Event part of city's plans to mark Canada's 150th birthday

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The 2017 JUNO music awards are coming back to Ottawa in time for the country's 150th birthday bash.

Mayor Jim Watson announced the event Wednesday alongside Allan Reid, president of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Science, MPP Bob Chiarelli and Guy Laflamme, head of the 2017 planning.

"It's our first major announcement of the 2017 calendar year," said Watson. "It's an opportunity for us to welcome the rest of the country to celebrate."

The JUNO award ceremony, hosted at the Canadian Tire Centre, will take place April 2, 2017. A week-long lead-up of musical events and artistic workshops will kick off March 28.

The event is expected to bring $9 to $10 million into the city, according to Watson.

"The JUNO awards are going to be bringing artists from across the country to celebrate here in Ottawa, but we're going to be bringing a spotlight to your local music scene," said Reid.

The announcement included short performances by Toronto-based Ammoye and Ottawa's own Rise Ashen inside Mercury Lounge, one of the possible venues for shows during the JUNO week.

Ottawa has hosted the event twice before. In 2003 the awards were by country musician Shania Twain, and in 2012 they was hosted by Star Trek star William Shatner.

IN BRIEF

Watson to push for Grey Cup in 2017

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson is still hoping to score two more pieces of his 2017 hat trick.

The mayor wants to see the Juno Awards, the Winter Classic outdoor hockey game and the Grey Cup in the city for Canada's 150th anniversary year.

On Thursday, he will be making his case to the CFL commissioner for a Grey Cup. Jeffrey Orridge will be the keynote speaker at the mayor's regular breakfast networking series at Ottawa City Hall.

Because the CFL recently named Toronto as the 2016 host for the Grey Cup, Watson said he does not expect an answer from Orridge on Thursday.

"He's certainly well aware of our desire that that's an important part of our hat trick," Watson said. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

THEATRE

Menopause the Musical comes to town

Irving Berlin was not singing about menopause when he wrote the 1930s hit "Heat Wave," but with a few lyrical changes it works for Menopause the Musical, which opened in Ottawa on Wednesday.

The show centres around four different women — a "career woman," a housewife, a former hippie and an aging soap opera star — who meet in a department store in New York.

The four have little in common, but relate over their menopausal forgetfulness, hot flashes, sex, chocolate binges and mood swings during the 90-minute show.

Like the hot-flash-Heat-Wave, the show is full of musical parodies: hits of the '60s, '70s and '80s rewritten with a new theme and sung by the all-Canadian cast.

Producer Mark Zimmerman said his favourite part of the show is the reaction from the audience.

"I'm in the theatre every night, and there's 300 to 400 women and the laugher is infectious. It's that type of show. It's a laugh out loud experience," he said. "The effect it has on people is so powerful, the audience becomes like a sisterhood."

The show has been running in Toronto for nine years, but it's the first time it's come to Ottawa.

Zimmerman said the crowds are usually women older than 40, but everyone can enjoy the show.

He said in Toronto, a group of friends sometimes came in a limo, celebrating "the change" in style. Themed cocktails like the "Estro-gin and Tonic" and "Moodswing Martinis" are also served. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's daily primer on what the parties are saying about the issues that matter to urban Canadians

Zunera Ishaq is seen after the Federal Court of Appeal heard her case on whether she could wear a niqab while taking her citizenship oath. By characterizing the niqab issue as a matter of aberrant or extreme behaviour, Stephen Harper struck a chord with an "extreme-o-phobic" Canadian public, Rosemary Westwood argues. PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's cult of moderation

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
Metro

"Everything in moderation," my grandmother used to say.

My dad says it now, often, reminding me it was his mother's phrase. Perhaps she inherited it, too. It feels so true, I've never questioned it. I doubt either of them did.

It's also a very Canadian thing to say: middle of the road, balanced, offending no one, committing to nothing.

It's the kind idea that underlies our temperament, as Canadians. Our boringness is our strongest asset, we tell ourselves. Our rejection of the extremes means we never stray too far into action, lest it be the wrong kind.

There is no greater Canadian value. It's why we can't get enough of American politics, while feeling smug that we're nowhere near as crazy.

Among other things, the fact that the NDP hasn't governed a country before has played into their sliding poll numbers. People have told me they're not sure what an NDP government would look like. Better to vote for what you know, than take a chance on what you don't. Moderate change, but not too much.

We approve of immigration, but we don't want anyone too hardline in their beliefs. We value our health care, but we don't really want to talk about all the holes in our system and how universal it really is. We care about climate change, but we'd never vote Naomi Klein into office; her ideas are fine in a book — unthinkable on Parliament Hill.

Even our villains, if that's how you see Stephen Harper, are subtler than many. Harper is nowhere near the calibre of a Donald Trump zealot, which isn't to say I don't disagree with many of his policies, but is to say they fall on us with a much lighter touch. In fact, his careful rightward steering is a perfect picture of moderately plodding your ideological path — so as not to wake the nation.

We may say we've woken, with a kind of anti-Harperism that isn't very Canadian, which is to say, isn't very measured.

The "anyone but Conservative" memes populating my Facebook feed, the high-pitched pleas to "heave Steve!" condemn him as un-Canadian, worse than Agent Smith of the Matrix, worse than Scar from the Lion King. Worse than Voldemort.

It's nice to see emotions run high, in a country where they mostly seem to make us uncomfortable. But we have been wrong to blame him for letting a bit of clothing carry the campaign away.

It's moderation we have to thank for an explosive debate on so-called "Canadian values."

Moderation birthed the niqab madness, not, as so many have been bemoaning, xenophobia. Sure, we have our share of bigotry (Harper himself might have some), but eight in 10 Canadians aren't xenophobic, they're extreme-o-phobic. Harper succeeded in turning the niqab into a week's worth of headlines by framing it not around immigration, but extremism.

I, like you, have been watching the polls. I, like you, have been wondering why a need to define ourselves — what we are — has so dominated this election. It's as if we really hoped a new leader would come along and answer the question, because we do not know.

But Canadians are many things.

We are right, and we are left, and we are so-called old stock, and so-called new, and "we" really only refers to people living in this country, who agree that democracy is good, if we agree on nothing else.

Except, of course, moderation.

2015 ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Rosie Westwood reflects on the key issues.

- TUES. Women
- WED. Environment
- **THURS. Canadian values**
- FRI. Youth engagement

> **Moderation birthed the niqab madness, not ... xenophobia. Sure, we have our share of bigotry ... but eight in 10 Canadians aren't xenophobic, they're extreme-o-phobic.**

QUICK GUIDE
SECURITY & CITIZENSHIP

Here's a breakdown of promises and legislative measures from the **NDP**, **Liberals**, **Conservatives** and **Greens**

ON BILL C-51	ON BILL C-24
Conservatives: • Passed the bill, which outlaws promoting terrorism; gives CSIS new powers; makes it easier to arrest terror suspects; allows 100 agencies to exchange Canadians' confidential information.	**Conservatives:** • Passed the bill, which allows the federal government to strip Canadian citizenship from dual citizens convicted of terrorist offences.
Liberals: • Promised to amend the bill by limiting to 17 the agencies empowered to exchange confidential info; eliminating CSIS's new powers; adding "sunset clause" on aspects.	**Liberals:** • Promised to repeal the bill.
NDP: • Promised to repeal the bill in its entirety.	**NDP:** • Promised to repeal the bill.
Greens: Promised to repeal the bill in its entirety.	**Greens:** • Promised to repeal the bill.

LATEST POLL **LIB 36%** **CON 31%** **NDP 21%** Source: EKOS/iPolitics

Justin Trudeau's campaign has been focused on targeting ridings won by either Conservatives or New Democrats in 2011.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau eyes full mandate

ELECTION 2015

Liberals look to do what they haven't since Chrétien days

Justin Trudeau is asking Canadians to give his Liberals something they haven't had a taste of in a while: a majority mandate.

The Liberal leader made the comment Wednesday as polls suggest his party has been enjoying some late-campaign momentum, and as the scrutiny of Trudeau intensifies in the lead-up to Monday's vote.

"I know that Canadians will make the right decision," Trudeau said at Mohawk College when asked about a majority.

"Am I asking Canadians to vote for us? Yes. Am I asking them to vote for us across the country? Yes. Am I asking them for a majority government? Yes."

Several news outlets quickly reported Trudeau's comment, which prompted one of his staffers to point out that his main rivals have also asked for majority governments during the campaign.

The party sent emails to reporters filled with quotes from both Conservative Leader Stephen Harper and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair asking voters for majorities.

Trudeau has indicated in the past that a Liberal minority wouldn't do, because Canadians want a strong, stable government with MPs from across the country.

A party must capture at least 170 seats to hold a bare majority in the House of Commons, which will have 338 seats in the next Parliament. The Liberals held just 36 seats at dissolution.

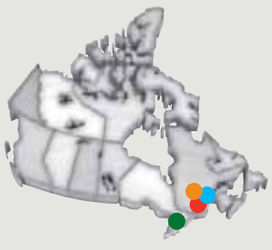
The last time the Liberals won a majority was in the 2000 election, when they were led by Jean Chrétien.

Trudeau was also asked Wednesday how he would stay in power if he wins a minority mandate and whether he would be prepared to work with Mulcair if the Tories earn a minority.

One of the great things about elections is that Canadians get to choose what their government is and what their Parliament will look like, he responded.

"What Canadians don't want is politicians organizing backroom deals around who actually gets to wield power," Trudeau said.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY



- **Stephen Harper** will be in Trois-Rivières, Que.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Quebec in Montreal, Laval and Sainte-Thérèse.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Quebec in Alma, Cookshire-Eaton and Sherbrooke.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Guelph, Ont.

MONTREAL

Feds halt construction over sewage fears

The federal government ordered a halt on Wednesday to the City of Montreal's plans to begin construction work that would see eight billion litres of raw sewage dumped into the St. Lawrence River.

Infrastructure minister Denis Lebel made the announcement on behalf of environment minister Leona Aglukkaq, saying she'd issued an interim order under the Fisheries Act to put the project on hold pending further scientific analysis.

"Based on limited data, Environment Canada cannot conclude whether or not the untreated waste water to be released will be acutely toxic," Lebel said.

"That said, the city has indicated there is a particular urgency attached to this project and, according to their evaluation, this is the only viable option available to them."

The city wants to close an interceptor — a large sewer used to feed wastewater to treatment plants — to do maintenance work and relocate a snow chute located underneath the Bonaventure Expressway, which the city is converting into an urban boulevard.

Montreal had planned to begin dumping the untreated wastewater into the river on Sunday and continue until Oct. 25. City officials have warned it's paramount the work be completed by mid-November.

Quebec's environment department has already signed off, but the federal government became hesitant in giving its approval as the plan became fodder in the current election campaign.

Lebel said Aglukkaq has decided an independent review is the best way to ensure the waterway isn't subject to irreparable environmental harm.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and the provincial government have maintained that, despite the optics, the plan remains the best option available in terms of time and cost.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Generation shunned

ELECTION 2015

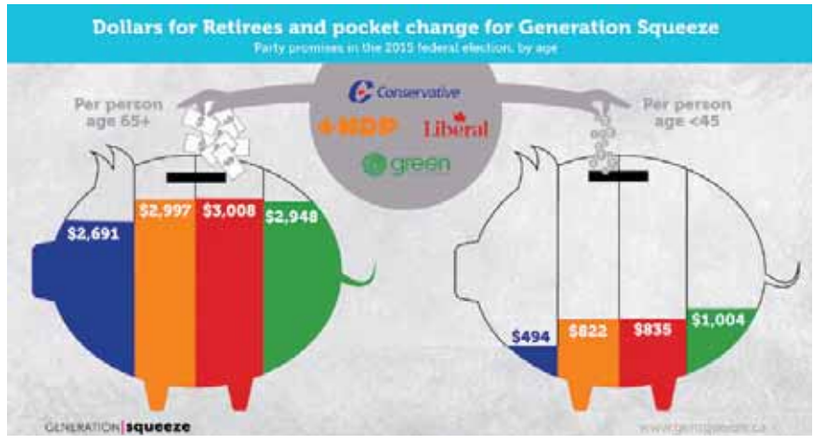
Major parties offer a pittance to nation's young adults

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

All four major federal parties are throwing mere "pocket change" at young voters, according to a new Generation Squeeze report comparing election platforms.

Despite the fact seniors will make up just 18 per cent of Canada's population in 2019, the Conservatives, Liberals, NDP and Greens have all pledged to boost between $18 to $20 billion in new funding for items like Old Age Security, income supplements, benefits, seniors care and health-care transfers to provinces.

Meanwhile, the Conservatives have pledged just 18 cents on issues that affect young adults for every dollar they spend on seniors.



All four national parties plan to spend "pocket change" on people under the age of 45 when compared to spending on seniors, a new study finds. CONTRIBUTED

The NDP's platform increases that to 27 cents for every dollar that goes to seniors, 28 under the Liberals and 34 cents from the Greens.

And that's at a time when adults under the age of 45 make up 55 per cent of the population, face higher unemployment rates, mounting debt and — for the first time — a deteriorating standard of living.

Generation Squeeze founder Dr. Paul Kershaw, of the University of British Columbia's School of Population & Public Health, believes the funding gap between generations stems from society's ongoing efforts to improve senior care and poverty since the '70s and the lack of political engagement by youth.

"Young Canadians are just simply less involved in the political world," said Kershaw.

Generation Squeeze recommends government spend an additional $1,000 for every person under the age of 45.

Currently, the government spends $20,868 on average for each of the 5.8 million Canadians aged 65 and up, compared to $4,349 each for the 20.1 million people under age 45, according to the report.

ENVIRONMENT

Parties graded on climate change

Only the NDP and Green Parties have promised to put a price on carbon and have set long-term emissions targets, according to the David Suzuki Foundation.

The environmental organization releases its 2015 party platform cheat sheet on Thursday, which shows were every national party stands on 20 climate change issues.

According to the guide, only the Liberals have not committed to any specific emission reduction targets (the Conservatives want to lower emissions 14.4 per cent by 2030, while the NDP and Green have set a 2050 target of 80 per cent).

The Greens and NDP are the only parties to commit to protecting the right to live in a healthy environment in law.

The Conservatives are the only party to support all major proposed energy projects: Keystone XL (which the Liberals also support), Energy East and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline (NDP and Liberals have taken no official stance on either) and Northern Gateway (all other parties are opposed).

Every party except for the Conservatives has also promised to end fossil fuel subsidies, ban oil tankers on B.C.'s coast, and establish a Parliamentary science officer.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

IN BRIEF

Town changing 'rape' slogan

A town in northern Saskatchewan will no longer use the slogan "Land of Rape and Honey."

Town council has voted to rebrand the community of Tisdale by next June.

Tisdale has used the slogan for nearly 60 years, but a survey found a majority of the 3,200 residents wanted to drop the catchphrase.

Rape refers to rapeseed, a bright-yellow plant that was a precursor to modern canola and was a key crop in the area.

But some were concerned the name offended people who thought it meant sexual assault. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iran moving troops: Official

SYRIA

Russian cover allows Assad supporters in, sources say

Iran has sent hundreds of troops into northern and central Syria in the first such open deployment in the country's civil war, joining fighters from its Lebanese ally Hezbollah in an offensive against rebels and taking advantage of cover from Russia's air campaign, a regional official and Syrian activists said Wednesday

Their arrival is almost certain to fuel the civil war in Syria, which has already claimed the lives of more than 250,000 people and displaced half of the country's population. It also highlights the far-reaching goals of Russia's military involvement in Syria.

Russia began carrying out airstrikes in Syria on Sept. 30, and Syrian troops and allied militiamen began a ground offensive against rebels in central Syria a week later. Russia says its airstrikes are meant to weaken the Islamic State group (ISIL) and other terrorists in Syria, but Western officials and Syrian rebels say most the strikes have focused on areas in central and northern Syria where the extremist group does not have a strong presence.

A Lebanese boy holds a placard depicting Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov that reads, "Assad or we burn the country," during a sit-in in front the Russian embassy, in Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The arrival of Iranian troops fighting under the cover of Russian air power further strengthens the view that Russia's main goal is to shore up Syrian President Bashar Assad's embattled government.

"Sending more troops from Hezbollah, and Iran only increases the shelf life of the Syrian regime, which is destined to end," Maj. Jamil Saleh, the leader of Tajammu Alezzah, a CIA-backed Free Syrian Army faction, said. "It will only add more destruction and displacement."

He said their presence on the ground is not new, but was kept quiet. "Now they are taking cover behind Russia since it is a superpower and strengthens their position," Alezzah said.

> **"Sending more troops from Hezbollah, and Iran only increases the shelf life of the Syrian regime.**
> Maj. Jamil Saleh

The official, who has deep knowledge of operational details in Syria, said the Iranian fighters — currently numbering around 1,500 — began arriving in Syria about two weeks ago, after the Russian airstrikes began, and have accelerated in recent days. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah group has also sent a fresh wave of fighters to Syria, he said.

He said the Iranian fighters were arriving at Damascus airport and transported to a military base in the coastal town of Latakia from where they were deploying on the ground.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss military affairs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Russia appeals for new probe into crash

Russia has appealed to the International Civil Aviation Organization to open a new probe into last year's downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine, the chief of the Russian aviation agency said Wednesday.

The Boeing 777 crashed on July 17, 2014, in the middle of a military conflict between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian government forces.

The Dutch Safety Board said in its final report released on Tuesday that the jet was destroyed by a Soviet-made surface-to-air missile. Two-thirds of the 298 people who died were Dutch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin chides officials for delays in space centre construction

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday chided officials for a four-month delay in building a sprawling space centre in the remote Far East, which has been dogged by corruption scandals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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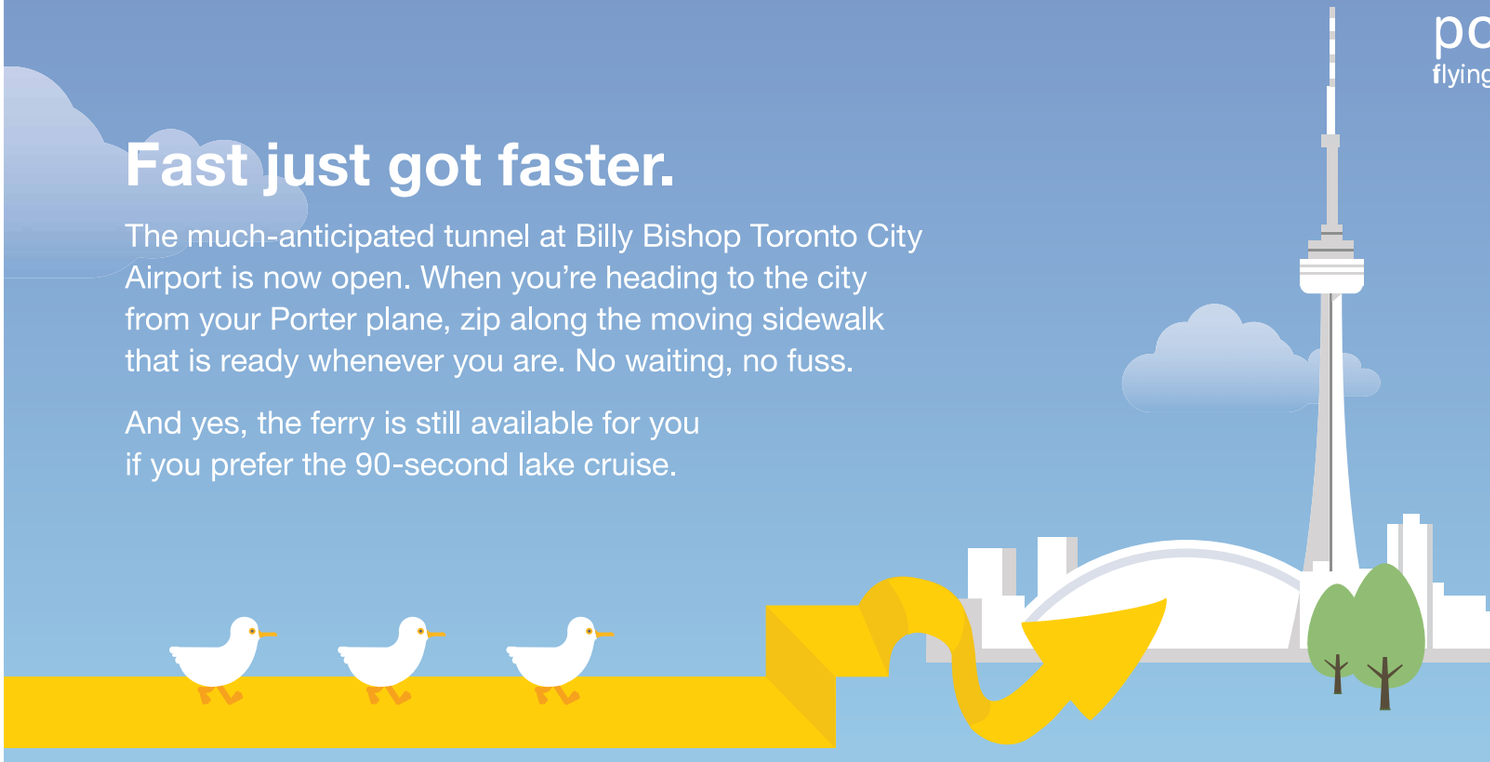

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Child migrants aided

GERMANY

'Welcome classes' set up for kids in huge wave of refugees

The word "Willkommensklasse" (Welcome Class) is displayed at an elementary school in Berlin last week. MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Fadi and Fadiya started school in Berlin last month not knowing a word of German.

The nine-year-old twins from Syria are among nearly 400,000 children among a wave of up to 1 million migrants and refugees expected in Germany this year alone.

All around the country, schools have added extra teachers and "welcome classes" to teach kids like Fadi and Fadiya the basics of German before they are integrated into regular classrooms about six to eight months later.

As a new school year began last month, Berlin's schools saw non-German speaking children jump by 70 per cent. There are now 478 welcome classes in the capital alone for roughly 5,000 children.

Fadi and his sister Fadiya were among 20 new arrivals from 11 countries in the welcome class offered by an elementary school.

The children ages 6 to 12 came from Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Korea, Ghana and the U.S.

Not all were refugees. Some, for example, were children of parents who had relocated to Germany for work.

"Some of those kids have never seen a school from the inside because they spent years hiding in basements from bombs," said principal Irina Wissmann.

"But we're trying to get them used to our routines as quickly as possible — it's the best thing that can happen to them right now."

Many of the children present special challenges.

"We had one child who would hide under the desk during the lesson and scream in panic, scaring off all the other kids as well," Wissmann said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHINA

Ancient teeth shed light on man's roots

Dozens of fossil human teeth from a cave in China show that people lived in southern Asia more than 80,000 years ago, researchers report.

Before this, the earliest well-dated fossils firmly linked to our species in southern Asia were only around 45,000 years old.

Our species, Homo sapiens, is thought to have appeared in Africa around 200,000 years ago and later spread to other continents. The details of that dispersal are still murky.

The discovery in China's Hunan province argues against a theory that the first wave reached southern Asia only about 60,000 years ago.

The finding may mean that people arrived in multiple waves, said Maria Martinon-Torres of University College London, a study author.

She and authors from China and elsewhere reported the discovery of 47 teeth in the journal Nature on Wednesday.

They could not date the teeth directly, but analysis of nearby mineral samples and animal fossils indicated the teeth are somewhere between 80,000 and 120,000 years old.

Human lower teeth found in the Fuyan Cave southern China. S. XING/NATURE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The finding raises the question of why our species didn't enter Europe until only about 40,000 to 45,000 years ago. Maybe Neanderthals crowded them out, basically out-competing them as hunter-gatherers until their populations started to fade, the researchers suggest.

In a journal commentary, Robin Dennell of the University of Exeter in England suggests that cold winters might be a better explanation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No purchase necessary. One entry per person, per day. Contest open to residents of the cities of Vancouver, BC, Calgary and Edmonton, AB, Winnipeg, MB, Ottawa and Toronto, ON, and Halifax, NS, who have attained the age of majority in their province of residence as at the start of the Contest Period. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received in each city. Thirty (30) prizes are available to be won in each market, consisting of a double pass to a screening of The Last Witch Hunter on Oct. 21, 2015. Approximate retail value of each prize is $25 CDN. Each selected entrant must correctly answer, unaided, a mathematical skill-testing question to be declared a winner. Contest Period opens at 12:01 am ET on Oct. 13, 2015 and closes at 11:59 pm ET on Oct. 18, 2015. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.clubmetro.com.

IN BRIEF

Condition of Ebola nurse worsening, hospital says

London's Royal Free Hospital says the condition of a nurse being treated for complications resulting from Ebola has worsened. The hospital said in a statement Wednesday that Pauline Cafferkey is now critically ill after her condition deteriorated.

Cafferkey was treated for Ebola after returning from Sierra Leone last year. She was released from the hospital in January but she suffered a relapse last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ethiopia calling for help after rains devastate crops

Ethiopia's government is calling for international assistance to help feed 8.2 million people after erratic rains devastated crop yields.

More than 300,000 children are in need of specialized nutritious food and a projected 48,000 more children under 5 are suffering from severe malnutrition, according to a government assessment conducted in September. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CALIFORNIA

Trio charged in Quebecer's slaying

Three transients appeared in court Wednesday charged with killing and robbing a Canadian backpacker and a yoga instructor days apart in California.

Morrison Haze Lampley, 23, Sean Michael Angold, 24, and Lila Scott Alligood, 18, did not enter pleas Wednesday. They were arrested in Portland, Ore., last week.

Lampley, accused of pulling the trigger of a stolen gun in both killings, yawned frequently as the trio was assigned court-appointed attorneys.

The three are charged with shooting backpacker Audrey Carey, 23, from Quebec, in the head.

Her body was found Oct. 3 in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, where officials believed she had camped during a three-day music festival.

They also are accused of killing Steve Carter, 67, while he walked his dog along a popular hiking trail in Marin County, 32 kilometres north of the city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALESTINIANS

Israel calls in troops

The Israeli military began deploying hundreds of troops in cities across the country on Wednesday to assist police forces in countering a wave of deadly Palestinian shooting and stabbing attacks that have created panic across the country.

The military's planned deployment of six companies marks the first implementation of measures by Israel's security cabinet to counter the attacks that have intensified dramatically in recent days.

The cabinet met late into the night and announced steps early Wednesday that included allowing police to seal off points of friction or incitement.

Many of the recent attackers have come from Arab areas of Jerusalem, prompting calls to seal off those neighbourhoods. In a new step, Israeli forces placed makeshift checkpoints in Palestinian neighbourhoods in Jerusalem to monitor traffic leaving the areas.

The cabinet also decided to strip residency rights and demolish homes of some attackers and draft hundreds more security guards to secure public transport. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hacks spur firms to seek cyber-insurance

PROTECTION

Data security third-biggest risk in Canada, survey finds

In the wake of the Ashley Madison hack and other high-profile data breaches, Canadian companies are turning to so-called cyber-insurance to protect themselves from the fallout of data leaks.

The ensuing class-action lawsuit — and adultery website founder and CEO Noel Biderman's decision to step down in late August — were the latest in a series of incidents that experts say represent a wake-up call for executives about the real-world consequences of digital vulnerabilities.

Duncan Stewart, director of technology research at Deloitte, said the past year has seen a surge in awareness about cyber-attacks, and companies are turning to insurers to prepare for what seems an inevitability in an increasingly interconnected world. "The number of attacks are rising, the severity is rising, and when they come, they're more difficult to deal with," he said.

The Ashley Madison breach is a wake-up call for companies about digital vulnerabilities, experts say. THE CANADIAN PRESS

There is no legal requirement for companies to report a hack in Canada, making the true number difficult to determine, but security company Websense said in August 2014 that 36 per cent of Canadian businesses had observed a breach in their IT security in the last 12 months.

In a KPMG survey of Canadian property insurance executives, data security even beat out unexpected catastrophic events as the third-biggest risk facing Canadian companies in 2015 after regulatory burdens and low interest rates.

Stewart compared significant breaches like the Ashley Madison hack to automobile collisions that result in a total write-off, yet he said companies also require coverage for the small attacks and fender-benders of cyber-security that happen far more often.

Insurance against cyber attacks is now just a part of the cost of doing business, he said.

"You wouldn't have a factory and not have fire insurance, so why would you think about not having cyber-insurance?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHOPPING

Competition hurts Walmart's profits

Walmart stock had its biggest one-day drop in nearly three decades after the world's largest retailer said it's bracing for its profit to take a hit as it works to fend off competition.

The company is forecasting its profit to fall by as much as 12 per cent next year as it perks up customer service and adapts to changing shopping habits.

The disappointing guidance comes as the company, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., works to fix its U.S. business amid pressure from rivals including traditional grocers, dollar stores and Amazon.com.

At its annual meeting in New York City on Wednesday, CEO Doug McMillon sought to reassure investors the company is transforming to keep up with a changing retail landscape.

Under McMillon, Walmart has accelerated the openings of smaller stores, which tend to be more conveniently located and let customers get in and out faster. On Wednesday, it said it was expanding its online grocery with free pickup to 10 additional markets, making the service available in a total of 20 markets in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 77.39¢ (+0.58¢)

TSX 13,875.33 (+30.60)

OIL $46.64 US (-2¢)

GOLD $1,179.80 US (+$14.40)

NATURAL GAS: $2.518 US (+2.0¢)
DOW JONES: 16,924.75 (-157.14)

IN BRIEF

Duties against paper stay

Canadian mills will continue to pay costly duties after the U.S. Department of Commerce said it had determined that U.S. imports of supercalendered paper from Canada have received countervailable subsidies ranging from 17.87 to 20.18 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Strange mix : The U.S. National Institutes of Health has temporarily put the brakes on a $500K grant to experiment with animal-human hybrid cells to let experts puzzle over the ethical issues.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON A STABLE HOUSE OF COMMONS

“Trudeau is — at campaign’s end — better positioned than Stephen Harper to craft a viable minority government.

With the wind at his back in the last week of the campaign, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau is asking voters to give his party a majority on Monday. To measure what a feat that would be, consider that to reach the magic majority number of 170, the Liberals — with 36 MPs at dissolution — would have to more than quadruple their seats next week.

A leap of that magnitude may turn out not to be in the cards but Trudeau is — at campaign’s end — better positioned than Stephen Harper to craft a viable minority government.

The poll numbers tell only part of the story.

With just five days to go in the campaign, it is easier to project a Conservative defeat than a majority victory.

Three polls this week pegged Harper’s party more than 10 points behind the Liberals in Ontario and trailing by five to seven points nationally.

With those numbers, the Conservatives would need most three-way local battles to break their way to eke out a narrow minority win on Monday. And that victory could amount to little more than a pit stop en route to the opposition benches, or to another election.

Citing irreconcilable policy differences with the Conservatives, the other parties have all pre-emptively warned they would bring down a Harper-led minority government at the first opportunity.

In short, such a government would be dead on arrival in the House of Commons.

By comparison, a Liberal minority government would not have to look all that hard to find enough opposition support to survive and to implement most of its platform.

Yes, there is plenty of animosity between the Liberals and their rivals — in particular the NDP — but as Harper himself demonstrated twice, reciprocal affection is not a precondition to a stable parliamentary relationship.

Having foreclosed the option of keeping Harper in power, the NDP would have little alternative but to do what it takes to make the Liberal alternative work.

In most instances, that would involve the New Democrats putting water into their wine or, in this case, putting wine in the water of their cautious platform.

The two parties disagree on fiscal policy.

Mulcair spent the campaign preaching the need to balance the federal budget each and every year of the next mandate. Trudeau is planning to run deficits for three years.

But would many New Democrat voters truly want their party to bring down a Liberal government for running deficits and spending more on Canada’s social and physical infrastructure?

And what of Trudeau’s plan to cut off the federal child benefits of high-income families to redistribute the money to the less wealthy ones? Would the NDP really hold a parliamentary knife to the throat of a minority government in the name of the more well-off Canadians?

The line in the NDP/Liberal sand rarely gets deeper than on the issue of C-51, the Conservatives’ controversial anti-terrorism legislation. Mulcair has vouched to scrap it while Trudeau — whose party voted for its adoption — has promised to improve it.

It is unlikely that a minority Liberal government would stake its survival on getting its amendments to C-51 through Parliament. But would the NDP oppose corrective amendments such as the introduction of parliamentary oversight of Canada’s security services, if the alternative was to leave unchanged the law passed under the Conservatives?

Mulcair has made it clear that no amount of Senate reform can reconcile his party with the continued existence of the institution.

Fair enough, but Trudeau does not need the support of another party to set up an arms-length process to select the future members of the upper house. The way a prime minister goes about getting advice for Senate appointments is left to his discretion

If he were prime minister, Mulcair would scrap the just-negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership. Trudeau has kept his options open, subject to the fine print of the deal.

But a Liberal minority government would not need the NDP to ratify the TPP, for it could count on Conservative support to do so.

Finding enough common ground to defeat a minority Liberal government would not come easily to the New Democrats and the Conservatives, or at least not for a while.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Dripping with deceit

The world’s gem giants are worried the diamond industry’s reputation might lose some of its shine in a market flooded with fakes. In a panicky presentation this week at the World Diamond Council meeting in Moscow, dealers were warned about clever copies that are either entirely lab-made or created by combining diamond cores or coatings with inferior bits of plastic, glass or cubic zirconia. In many cases, the imposters are getting mixed in with real jewels from large and well-known companies. Jangling the alarm about this troubling trend was the president of the partially state-owned Russian diamond miner ALROSA, which produces a quarter of the world’s (real) diamonds. SOURCE: CNBC

metroview

In Fahmy case, Harper prioritized politics ahead of human rights

Steven Zhou
For Metro

The return of journalist Mohamed Fahmy to Canada this week after 400 days in an Egyptian prison couldn’t have been timelier.

It’s a reminder that Canadians should think about how much their candidates really care about human rights when they head to the polls in less than a week’s time. Fahmy, a former Al Jazeera English journalist, isn’t happy at all with the way Stephen Harper’s administration handled his situation. And he’s right to say that the Tories could have done a lot more for him.

Along with two colleagues, Fahmy was arrested in December 2013 for what are now widely denounced terror-related charges. He said in his first press conference in Canada that he felt “betrayed and abandoned” by his own government as the Harper administration dragged its feet.

Fahmy’s best chance at freedom was for Harper to personally intervene at the highest level, but it wasn’t until he was recently sentenced to three more years in prison (in another Egyptian show-trial) did the Canadian government truly step in on his behalf. By then, Fahmy had already spent hundreds of days in jail.

The Harper government isn’t the only one that allows politics and ideology to infringe on its theoretical commitment to human rights. Its reluctance to accept Syrian refugees in a timely way is another good example. But the Fahmy case boiled the situation down to one person, one face, and showed how the administration wasn’t much interested in advocating speedily for one of its own citizens.

The Egyptian government under Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was gaining notoriety at the time of Fahmy’s arrest (right after toppling the elected government of the Muslim Brotherhood’s Mohamed Morsi) for locking up anyone who publicly disagreed with the administration. The arrest was clearly a violation of freedom of speech and of the press. But Prime Minster Harper wasn’t interested even in knocking off such low-hanging fruit.

It’s worth asking what this all means for a Canada that’s lost a lot of international standing during the Harper years, and has become all bark and no bite when it comes to human rights. It’s become more and more obvious that the Canadian government is focused narrowly on denouncing its international rivals while bolstering its allies — all with little attention paid to the actual human consequences.

The Fahmy case was open and shut, according to Canadian Journalists For Free Expression, but the Harper administration treated it like some unapproachable gray area involving complex politicking. This only adds to the Tories’ track record of bizarrely ideological foreign policy.

Steven Zhou is a Toronto-based journalist and editor. He tweets at @stevenzzhou.

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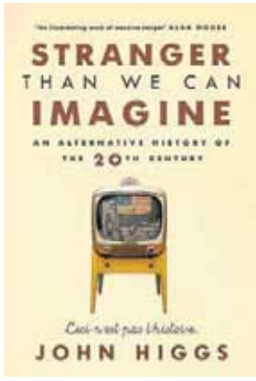
HISTORY

A 20th century retrospective provides hints to our future

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada



"It seemed necessary."

Ask John Higgs why he took some of the most mind-bending concepts of 100 years and shaped them into a retelling of the 20th century, and that's the reply.

Higgs is the writer behind Stranger Than We Can Imagine: An Alternative History of the 20th Century. Rarely have so many big ideas been crammed into one book. It's an ambitious project.

Higgs, who's from Brighton, England, has created a roadmap of the cultural and technological advances that brought us to the modern world.

"The purpose of this is to make sense of now," explains Higgs over coffee during a visit to Toronto.

"The 20th century is obviously the century we know most about. It shouldn't be strange to us. But the narrative we all know — the Second World War, Hiroshima, the Cold War, the Berlin Wall — that's not how it should be told.

"For some reason, that doesn't seem to lead into the world we now know, with tsunamis of information."

The difference between the 20th century and the 19th, Higgs suggests, is that 19th-century discoveries are easier to understand. Great feats of physical engineering or medical breakthroughs are impressive and accessible for an ordinary person.

"Getting your head around the past 100 years will change how the modern world appears to you.
John Higgs

The greatest ideas of the 20th century are more challenging, he argues. It's "off-putting, bewildering and slightly inhuman" to try to grasp ideas like quantum mechanics.

Higgs decided to explain those huge concepts, and link them in the story of a century.

"It's the most radical ideas that make no sense at all at the time," Higgs says. "They were the ideas that were on the edge, but they all seemed to be pointing in the same direction. When you tie them all together they make sense together."

And Higgs admits he tried to avoid mentioning politicians.

"Politicians don't invent the Internet," he says.

"They don't change our society. They just sit at the top and take the credit."

Stranger Than We Can Imagine begins with relativity, then explains modern art, individualism, nihilism, the space race, chaos theory and more. It's brain-bursting stuff, but worth the effort.

But the real purpose of tracking a century of ideas was to look at what's coming in the 21st century.

Spoiler: Higgs thinks we're looking at a bright future because of changes in how we see ourselves, and that's all rooted in those big, 20th-century ideas.

"Getting your head around the past 100 years will change how the modern world appears to you," he smiles.

"You will see it with different eyes."

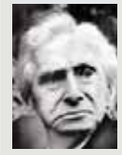
Who won the space race? In his book, John Higgs says it was the Soviets. But the U.S., despite being left behind for years, went on to win the cultural battle by landing men on the Moon.
ISTOCK

PERSONALITIES

Cast of characters
John Higgs avoided mentioning politicians in his history book, but does talk about some of the 20th century's most fascinating individuals, including:

IGOR STRAVINSKY, COMPOSER

JAMES JOYCE, WRITER



BERTRAND RUSSELL, ACADEMIC

ALEISTER CROWLEY, OCCULTIST

NORTON I, 'EMPEROR OF THE UNITED STATES'

GENE RODENBERRY, CREATOR OF STAR TREK

CORRECTION:
Advance Polls Ad Placed in Error

On Wednesday, October 14, *Metro News* published an advertisement by Elections Canada about advance polls. This was due to a placement error. Advance polls were October 9 to 12, and are already closed.

The ad that should have run yesterday states that election day is Monday, October 19. Our advertising staff regret any confusion this has caused.

You can get all the information you need to vote in the federal election at **elections.ca**

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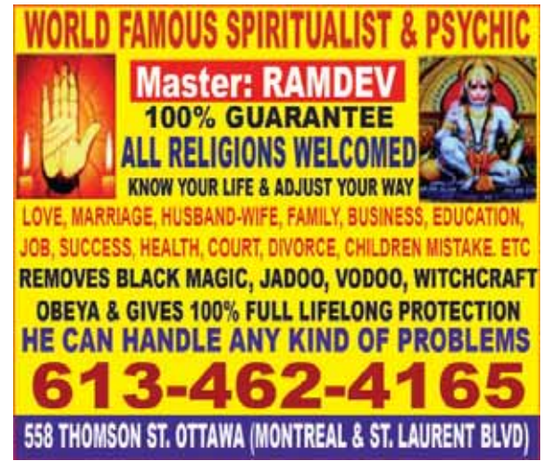
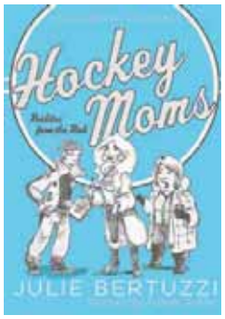


BOOK EXCERPT HOCKEY MOMS: REALITIES FROM THE RINK, BY JULIE BERTUZZI

‘She’s unafraid to insult any player’



Julie Bertuzzi, wife of NHL player Todd Bertuzzi, has taken the observations she’s gleaned from years of experience as a hockey mom to write 20 droll sketches of the fellow moms who lived at the rinks and in the minivan to support their kids in their hockey dreams.

In this exerpt, we meet Big Mouth Betty, one of the “20 women you already know.”

It only takes one listen, and after that you will instantly recognize Big Mouth Betty, anytime, anywhere. Her distinctive shriek can be heard the moment you enter the rink’s lobby. She is the mom who acts like she’s played a thousand games in the NHL, even though she has never actually worn a pair of skates. Or, if she has played the game, she likely gained all of her hockey knowledge during her old college days. She just doesn’t know that the game has changed dramatically since the 1990s. Perhaps she’s learned everything she knows in the lobbies of the great many arenas she has seen. She may even have taught herself by watching NHL network game highlights over breakfast. Whatever odd place is the source of her hockey wisdom, she’s certainly not shy in telling you all about it. She takes over most conversations, and she is always right when it comes to the game of hockey. There’s no point even trying to talk hockey with Big Mouth Betty because you will never be right — unless, that is, she agrees with you.

This Hockey Mom always stands with the same circle: either with the ladies who are used to her or with her own children, who have no choice but to hang out with her at the rink. Sometimes you will see her with that one nice mom who just accepts everybody, but most of the team parents try to avoid her. Even her own husband tries to get out of going to the games with her. Or he chooses to stand by the glass, on the opposite side of the rink, so he can’t hear her yakking.

One difference between Big Mouth Betty and other Hockey Moms is that most moms don’t want to be “that parent” constantly in the coach’s face expressing one or several opinions on every matter. But because Betty is such a hockey guru, the other parents quite often suggest to her that she take her beef about the team’s business to the coach. She can also be “loud” on email, sending out “reply alls” with her comments on the previous night’s game. These are a little easier to ignore.

Like the Drama Queen, this mom can be heard throughout the game. But unlike the Drama Queen, who’s busy waving her arms in the air, Big Mouth Betty keeps active by constantly colour commentating the play. At times she feels she really needs to help coach, after all. And this is no act. She truly can’t help herself. So she steps right into Coach Mom’s role and calls out the next line rotation or screams at her kid to get his head out of his ass so that he can see the play. Worse, she’s unafraid to insult any player on the ice: forward, defence, or goalie. She yells at refs, she shouts at linesmen, and she has been known to holler at other moms too. She gets especially fired up at dirty plays, so much so that other moms sometimes have to relocate to different seats in the middle of a period.

Quick tip ladies: always be the last to the bleachers. Let Big Mouth Betty get in first and stake out her area, and then you can find a different place to sit. And one last word of advice: limit this woman to one large coffee, as caffeine is the last thing she needs. God forbid she has a beer or a glass of red before a game.

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Trading tales of Rwanda now and then

THE NEW HEART OF AFRICA

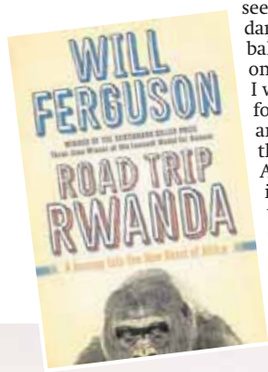
Will Ferguson recalls road trip at centre of his new book

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Reading Will Ferguson's recent book, Road Trip Rwanda, is almost exactly like being in Rwanda. I know — I lived there for 25 years before coming to Canada.

From the seriousness of law enforcers to the mundane activities and the craziness of an entire nation about soccer, the Giller Prize-winning author managed to beautifully capture it all in a 350-page memoir that hit bookshelves early this month.

So when I recently sat down with him and his friend and travel guide Jean Claude Munyezamu — a Rwandan native currently living in Calgary, the man at the origin of the trip — it felt like three old friends talking about a neighbourhood they knew only too well, even though Ferguson had only spent three weeks in Rwanda.



Ferguson: My purpose for writing this book was to convey to western people that Rwanda has been enormously affected by the genocide. But Rwanda is not the genocide; just the same way the Jewish culture is not the Holocaust. For most people it's as if Rwanda stopped in 1994. I hope this book shows that there's more to Rwanda than just the genocide. People are living their lives, falling in and out of love, worried about their education. It was important for me to make that clear.

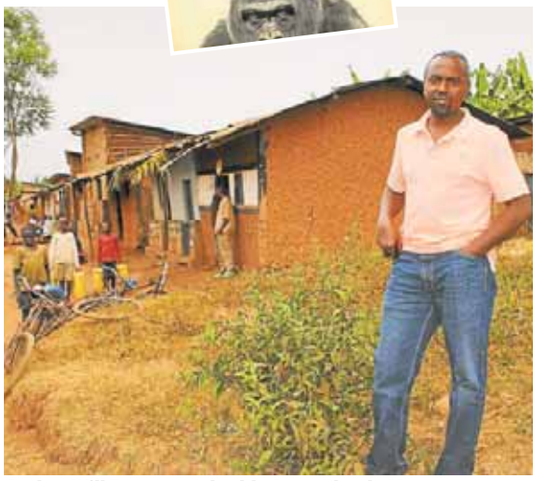
And you managed to do that by mixing humour, jokes and serious observations on how the country's people are not just coping but thriving, right?

Ferguson: Yeah. I think road trips are inherently fun, even when your travel buddy doesn't drink beer!

Munyezamu: He tried many times to convince me to join him for a drink. I have never had a drop of alcohol in my life.

You should have taken me! All jokes aside though, in the book you talk about visiting genocide memorials, offering rides to the people on the streets and seeing the gorillas. What's one thing that surprised you the most?

Ferguson: One of the most amazing things for me was seeing how Rwandan women could balance anything on their heads. I watched them for three weeks and never saw a thing falling off. And they're doing this walking up and down on steep hills. They carry everything on their heads.



Author Will Ferguson's buddy Jean-Claude Munyezamu stands in front of the ruins of his brother's home in Rundu village. It was destroyed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. CONTRIBUTED

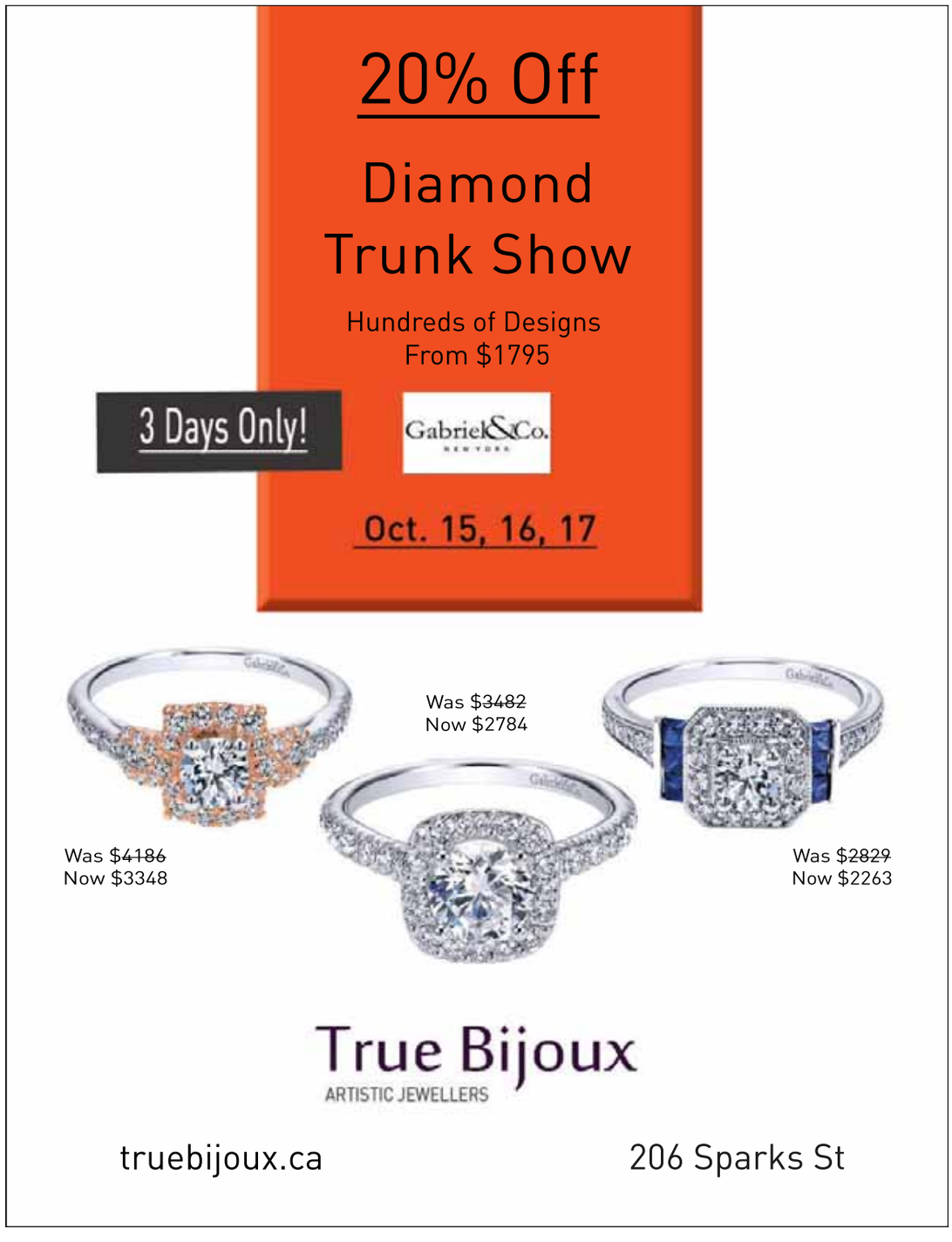
It's not just women though, because I I remember growing up and carrying everything on my head and walking miles and miles on every trip. Rwandans live on foot, man!

Ferguson: And there are people everywhere too. You know, I didn't even make an attempt to drive when we were there. There are just so many people on the roads, highways and small roads. Every street is full of people, and they don't fear crossing. I couldn't believe it. They say Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa, but that statistic is misleading. It makes you think of Rwanda as Mumbai, but it's not. The country is so beautiful with hills, forests and rivers. But Rwandans use the roads like hallways.

I had the opposite reaction when I got here (Toronto) for the first time. I think my first question driving in from Pearson airport was: "Where are the people?" Anyway, tell me why Rwanda is a trip worth taking.

Ferguson: First of all, it's beautiful. People are warm-hearted, it's safe, it's such a small country and there's so much variety. You never waste your time in Rwanda.

And for me the most important and powerful place we visited is at Nyange Memorial. This is a school where children refused to separate themselves according to their ethnic groups, and the militia killed them altogether. It's only there that I realized the cycle of violence is broken in Rwanda forever.



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Marlon James wins the Booker Prize

VIOLENT AND FUNNY

Unanimous choice not a book you'd give to your mom

Booker Prize winner Marlon James. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marlon James became the first Jamaican winner of the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction Tuesday with a vivid, violent, exuberant and expletive-laden novel based on the attempted assassination of Bob Marley.

Michael Wood, chairman of the judging panel, said A Brief History of Seven Killings was "the most exciting book on the list" and a novel full of the "sheer pleasure" of language. He said it had been the unanimous choice of the five judges.

James was awarded the $77,000 prize during a black-tie dinner in London. The 44-year-old author said he almost gave up writing more than a decade ago when his first novel, John Crow's Devil, was rejected by 70 publishers. He said winning the Booker Prize was "surreal," and joked that he would spend the prize money on a tailor-made suit or "every William Faulkner novel in hardcover."

He said he hoped his victory would bring "more attention to what's coming out of Jamaica and the Caribbean, because I think there are some brand-new voices coming out who are exploring contemporary society, who are exploring what's beyond politics, what's beyond colonialism."

A Brief History of Seven Killings charts political violence in Jamaica and the spread of crack cocaine in the U.S., and hinges on a 1976 attempt on the life of reggae superstar Marley.

Critics have compared the novel to the stream-of-consciousness novels of William Faulkner and the hyper-violent movies of Quentin Tarantino.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Burning issues of 1970s New York

INTERVIEW

Contemporary concerns dramatized in city on the brink

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

On Tuesday night, the incomparable Patti Smith regaled a sold-out crowd at Toronto's Design Exchange with personal stories from her new memoir, M Train.

Smith, the poetically minded matriarch of New York's 1970s punk scene, is synonymous with the gritty toughness of that era, so it comes as no surprise that her music makes an appearance in Garth Risk Hallberg's sprawling 944-page debut novel City On Fire.

Like Smith, 36-year-old Hallberg came to New York to be among like-minded artists and writers. In 2003, while on a bus heading into the city, listening to Billy Joel's ode to the Big Apple, Miami 2017, he had a vision for his novel.

"I knew this was the book I have to write," he says.

For the next 10 years during off-hours from his day job as a journalist, Hallberg created the world that would become City on Fire, an epic story that should resonate with those who actually hung out at CBGB and those who show their affinity by wearing vintage Ramones t-shirts.

Mostly set in 1977 prior to New York's notorious blackout and subsequent violence, City on Fire revolves around the unsolved murder of an East Village teenager named Sam. The novel quickly introduces a large cast of characters, all of whom are tangibly connected, but whose personal dreams and socio-economic, political and sexual identities offer original perspectives on life in the city.

Since news of Hallberg's novel grabbed attention for its publisher bidding war (Doubleday Canada publishes it here) and a staggering reported $2-million advance, City of Fire has been scrutinized by some media, suggesting its setting represents misplaced nostalgia for a time when drugs, poverty and crime reigned. But Hallberg says nostalgia is exactly what he was trying to avoid, "at least so far as it involves the flattening or sentimentalizing of the past," he says.

While Hallberg "adores" books like the Hillary Mantel's Thomas Cromwell tome Wolf Hall, he didn't set out to write a historical novel, either. What he found in the squalor of 1970s New York was "a place where I could dramatize the burning issues that still affect us years later: class, sexuality, race, questions of humanity and self-expression," he says. "These are all very contemporary concerns."

As he was writing the first draft and before any fact-checking, Hallberg realized he was already intuitively aware of so much of the story's ethos. Growing up in North Carolina, he recalls listening as a small child to political conversations among the grown-ups. By the time he was 17, he had developed a group of friends five hours away in Washington, D.C., who introduced him to underground zine culture. Originally he planned to dedicate a chapter in the book to Sam's diary, but instead, readers get inside her thoughts via a scrappy cut-and-pasted zine. Hallberg says, "Sam is so much me. Her voice is mine."

And then there's the music, which plays like an undercurrent throughout the book. All the touchstones, like Smith, are there, but Hallberg, who performed in a band and boasts 18,000 songs on his iPod, captures that timeless youthful exhilaration of watching favourite bands in sweaty clubs, unsure of how the night is going to end. Hallberg says, "That's the world where I grew up."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Journalist and author Garth Risk Hallberg's debut novel started a bidding war that saw him bag a reported $2-million advance. HANDOUT

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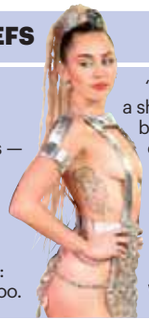

Miley plans to perform nude

Want to see Miley Cyrus — and the Flaming Lips — perform totally naked? Well, first off that's an oddly specific fantasy. And secondly, you're in luck! But there's a catch: You have to be naked, too.

"(Cyrus) is planning a show where her, the band (us) and the audience are all completely naked with milk — well, white stuff that looks like milk — being spewed everywhere," Flaming Lips ringleader Wayne Coyne spilled on Instagram. "It's a video (in the works) for (Miley and Her Dead Pets) song The Milky Milky Milk." NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Klum talks single mom status

Heidi Klum is opening up about life as a single mom some four years after her divorce from Seal, and things aren't really that different.

"Obviously things have changed, but they haven't changed drastically," she tells Redbook. "He was never your typical dad who left for work in the morning with his briefcase and would be home by dinnertime every night. He travelled a lot. The kids knew it was part of his job. I'm a mom and a dad at the same time."

On men in general: "Women are capable of juggling a lot of balls — we do things that guys just cannot do. Men typically can juggle only one ball," she jokes. "A lot of them have a very hard time just trying to figure out what to do with that one ball. And often they want us to hold that one, too!"

I'm just going to leave it at that. NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Lamar Odom on life support

TRAGEDY

After life a of struggle, Odom fights for his life

Lamar Odom, the NBA star and reality TV personality embraced by teammates and fans for his humble approach to fame, was on life support Wednesday, his estranged wife Khloe Kardashian by his side. Odom was found unresponsive after four days in a brothel, and authorities sought a warrant for blood evidence of drugs.

Hospital officials would not comment on the condition of the 35-year-old former Los Angeles Laker, who was found face down at Nevada's Love Ranch Tuesday afternoon, brothel owner Dennis Hof said.

Odom started "throwing up all kinds of stuff" after a 911 operator told brothel workers to turn him on his side, Hof said in a phone interview. Odom "spent time socializing with some of my girls," but wasn't seen taking any illegal drugs, Hof said.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who visited him in the hospital Wednesday, said Odom was on life support and that doctors believe he is recovering after being totally unresponsive the day before.

"Apparently from what the doctor said, he was much better off today than yesterday. He at least has some responsiveness now," Jackson said.

"We're just holding hands and hoping he can bounce back," Jackson added.

Investigators have sought a warrant to obtain a blood sample to determine if Odom suffered a drug or alcohol overdose, Nye County, Nev., Sheriff Sharon Wehrly said.

Odom spent most of his 14-year NBA career in Los Angeles with the Lakers and Clippers, becoming a fan favourite and beloved teammate. Then he took fame even farther, marrying into the Kardashian clan.

His whirlwind romance with Khloe Kardashian and their huge 2009 wedding was taped for the E! network, and Odom appeared on nearly two dozen episodes of Keeping Up with the Kardashians. He also appeared on Kourtney & Kim Take Miami, and his marriage was chronicled on the Khloe & Lamar show in 2011 and 2012.

Odom seemed to get loving attention from the Kardashians. Khloe would call him Lam-Lam and worry openly about him. Even after they split up in 2013, cameras recorded her calling him and checking on his welfare.

But as his life became a public spectacle, his basketball career faded. He was heartbroken in December 2011 when the Lakers attempted to trade him to New Orleans in a multiplayer trade for Chris Paul. He eventually went to Dallas, and was out of the NBA just two years later.

Odom's behaviour increasingly worried family and friends. He pleaded no contest to drunk-driving after an arrest in August 2013. Kardashian filed for divorce four months later and has been dating Houston Rockets star James Harden. The divorce has not yet received final approval from a judge.

Odom signed with the New York Knicks in April 2014, but never played. Rumours of drug use followed; Odom was photographed repeatedly on Skid Row.

When cameras caught up with him on a sidewalk in August, Odom blamed the media for his downfall.

"Ya'll have discredited me, beat me down, took my confidence, took everything away from me. You will not do it again," Odom told TMZ in an interview. "To everybody that I know and that supports me, I'm sorry but it's just it. The dog has to bite back." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Odom spent most of his career in Los Angeles with the Lakers and Clippers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

What's Fido up to at home? PetBot will take pics of your pet and send them to your phone

What they're a$king

As Canadian cities grow, the only place left to build is up. Single-family homes are in great demand, and in some cities, rising prices and bidding wars are the norm. Here is an interesting cross-section of three-bedroom homes with a range of asking prices. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

ASKING PRICES WERE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

$529,000

Ottawa

For sale is a three-bedroom bungalow in the McKellar Park neighbourhood at 505 Tillbury Ave. It has a main-floor family room addition, with hardwood in the principal rooms and bedrooms, a wood-burning fireplace and a fully finished basement with laundry. There are two bathrooms and a two-car, attached garage. The home is within walking distance to great schools and Westboro Village. Listing agent Kelly Millican is a sales representative with Royal LePage Team Realty, 613-729-9090.

$429,900

Calgary

This three-bedroom, detached home in the Mayland Heights district is close to everything — five minutes to downtown, one block to the bus or a 15-minute walk to the LRT. The home features 956 sq. ft. of living space and three bathrooms. The master suite has built-in closets in an en suite bathroom. The second storey has two bedrooms and a spacious main bath. There's a chef's kitchen with white cupboards and granite countertops. Bryon Howard is a sales representative for Re/Max House of Real Estate, 403-589-0004.

$989,000

Toronto

This character row house is located deep in the heart of Little Italy. It was built in the 1880s and has been renovated to perfection. The home features high-end finishes, elegant fixtures and heritage crown moldings. With a bright and spacious layout, there's also a finished basement with a separate entrance and a detached garage. The site is located near all the amenities and transit options of College Street West. Listing agents Ralph Fox and Kori Marin are with Sage Real Estate Ltd., 416-483-8000.

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8 ACCESSORIES FOR THE ULTIMATE AT-HOME BREW STATION

Cold weather means drinking more of the good stuff: hot tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Here are a few brewing discoveries that are sure to have you sipping away in style.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 Sip away
The perfect accompaniment to Netflix this winter. Time For Tea Set — My Cup of Tea, $25, Chapters.Indigo.ca

2 Grind away
One machine that grinds to every need at the perfect price. Custom Grind Coffee Grinder, $35, HamiltonBeach.ca

3 Heat away
A solid brass classic to entertain for a lifetime. Alfi Thermal Carafe, $200, Williams-Sonoma.com

4 Pump away
For the smoothest, grit-free pump coffee. AeroPress Coffee & Espresso Brewer, $35, Starbucks.ca

5 Brew away
The hipster teapot that will live on forever. STAUB Teapot, Basil, $170, TheBay.com

6 Walk away
Act like you overspend at the local coffee shop while brewing your own. Lenox Park City Thermal Travel Mug, $12, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

7 Boil away
Add some style from kitchen counter to the table. Hamilton Beach 1.7-litre Stainless Steel Cordless Kettle, $70, Lowes.ca

8 Store away
The handiest gadget in your coffee station. Coffee Scoop Clip, $6, CB2.com

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metro SPORTS
FIFA is investigating the $64M transfer of Eliaquim Mangala from Porto to Manchester City in 2014
Your essential daily news

Bautista blasts Jays to AL finals in wild, wacky win over Texas

MLB PLAYOFFS

Bizarre plays, Ranger errors pave way to dramatic finish

ALDS Game 5

6	3

Capping a deciding game filled with controversy, bad blood and just plain craziness, Jose Bautista's three-run homer propelled the Blue Jays into the American League Championship Series as baseball karma delivered Toronto a wild 6-3 win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday.

Game 5 of the AL Division Series was filled with drama — and almost as much talk as play on the field before a riled-up sellout crowd of 49,742 under the Rogers Centre roof.

When the dust settled, the Jays had rallied from a 2-0 hole to win three straight and advance to face either Kansas City or Houston. It was Toronto's first home playoff win since Joe Carter's home run secured the 1993 World Series.

The Jays rushed the mound to celebrate when it was over, followed by police to monitor the crowd. And baseball had a playoff game that will long be remembered, for the good and bad. Tied 2-2, the contest was turned on its head in the top of the seventh.

With Rougned Odor on third and Shin Soo-Choo at the plate with two outs, Toronto catcher Russell Martin's return throw back to the mound hit Choo's bat and flew off into the distance.

Odor raced home while the Jays players held their arms up in disbelief. Home plate umpire Dale Scott, who had called time, then awarded Odor the base — and the run — after a confab. As beer and garbage flew out of the stands, there was more talk and a review.

The ruling was the play stood — that Choo had not intentionally interfered so the ball was alive and in play. Martin was given a throwing error and the irate Jays, now trailing 3-2, filed their protest.

By chance, Martin was up to open the bottom of the seventh. And karma kicked in with three straight Texas errors — one by first baseman Mitch Moreland and two by shortstop Elvis Andrus — allowing Martin, Kevin Pillar and Ryan Goins to load the bases with none out.

Toronto's Roberta Osuna and catcher Dioner Navarro embrace as the Blue Jays celebrate on the field at Rogers Centre. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Rangers got pinch-runner Dalton Pompey out at home with the Rangers upset at the take-no-prisoners slide that took out catcher Chris Gimenez. Reliever Sam Dyson took over for Rangers ace Cole Hamels.

Josh Donaldson drove in Pillar on a field's choice floater that just went over Odor's glove to tied it at 3-3. Bautista then slammed a three-run homer to settle the score, pausing dramatically to savour his handiwork before flipping the bat and trotting round the bases.

Dyson took umbrage, jawing at Edwin Encarnacion, who was next up. The benches and bullpen emptied, although nothing came of it.

The benches emptied again after the inning finally ended. Jays pitcher Mark Buehrle, who was in uniform but not on the playoff roster, was the only player ejected after the scuffles. Texas put two men on in the eighth but closer Roberto Osuna ended the threat before wrapping up the ninth.

The Jays are the 15th team in MLB history to force a Game 5 in a best-of-five series when down 0-2 and only the third to win after losing the first two games at home (the Yankees in 2001 and San Francisco Giants in 2012 also did it).

The game was played nearly 30 years to the day that the Jays played their last sudden-death game (Oct 16, 1985, a loss to Kansas City).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ONLINE RISE

The Toronto Blue Jays' success on the field this season is helping them online.

Toronto's surge into Major League Baseball's post-season and performance in the American League Division Series has seen the Blue Jays' popularity explode, with the team's official Twitter account gaining more than 350,000 followers over the course of the season, putting them over one million total followers.

The Toronto Maple Leafs remain the most popular Canadian sports franchise on Twitter with 1,034,103 followers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUCK BATTLE SENATORS TAKE ON COLUMBUS Ottawa Senator Cody Ceci, right, works for the puck against the Blue Jackets' Cam Atkinson during a game in Columbus on Wednesday. For the final score, go to Metronews.ca. PAUL VERNON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TFC finally in playoffs

MLS

Wonder goal from Giovinco makes history

TUESDAY in Toronto

2	1
TFC	RED BULLS

Sebastian Giovinco and Herculez Gomez scored as Toronto FC clinched its first-ever playoff berth with a 2-1 over the New York Red Bulls on Wednesday night. It was the fourth-straight win for Toronto (15-13-4), which will be heading to the post-season for the first time after joining Major League Soccer in 2006.

Giovinco brought the crowd on its feet in the 79th minute after deking out a slew of Red Bulls before firing a shot into the right hand side of the net. He celebrated the goal by using the Toronto Blue Jays stirring the pot symbol.

Giovinco, who arrived back in Toronto late Wednesday afternoon from international duty with Italy, subbed into the game in the 71st minute for Gomez. Giovinco played Tuesday against Norway in a Euro 2016 qualifier.

Shaun Wright-Phillips scored the lone goal for New York (16-10-6) in the 86th minute.

It was the 22nd goal of the season for Giovinco, who has been having an MVP-calibre season.

Gomez gave Toronto a 1-0 lead in the 51st minute after picking up a through ball from Jackson that deflected off a New York defender and beat outstretched Red Bulls goalkeeper Luis Robles.

Toronto moved into second place in the Eastern Conference, five points behind the Red Bulls. The top six teams in each conference make the playoffs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Als acquire Glenn, Stamps get Messam

The Montreal Alouettes have acquired quarterback Kevin Glenn from the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The Riders get a fifth-round pick in the 2016 draft in return for the veteran. The deal came before Wednesday's 4 p.m. CFL trade deadline.

Montreal (5-9) lost starter Rakeem Cato to injury in Monday's 25-17 home loss to the Toronto Argonauts.

Glenn completed 171 of 257 passes for 2,174 yards with nine TDs and 10 interceptions this season with the Riders.

Montreal is last in the East Division, tied with both B.C. (5-9) and Winnipeg (5-10) for the third playoff spot in the West Division standings. They would have to accumulate more points than both clubs in order to become the first Eastern squad to cross over to the West come playoff time.

In another deadline deal, the Calgary Stampeders acquired running back Jerome Messam and a 2016 fifth-round draft pick from the Saskatchewan Roughriders for kicker Tyler Crapigna, a 2016 third-round selection and a negotiations list player.

Also, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats acquired Canadian defensive back Mike Edem from the Montreal Alouettes for a 2016 sixth-round pick and a conditional seventh-round selection in 2017.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ovechkin missed Sharks game after oversleeping

Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin said he overslept and missed practice on Tuesday morning, and that's why coach Barry Trotz made him sit out that night's game against San Jose Sharks.

The Capitals said on Tuesday that Ovechkin missed the game due to "personal reasons." Ovechkin spoke to reporters after Wednesday's practice, saying he made a mistake setting his alarm clock.

He set the alarm clock for 8:30 p.m. instead of a.m., which caused him to oversleep and arrive at practice late.

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RECIPE Sweet Potato and Apple Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This sweet and spicy dish is great alone or with grilled cheese.

Ready in
Prep time: 45 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 Tbsps olive oil, divided
- pinch salt
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 2 apples, diced
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- pinch nutmeg
- pinch ginger
- 1/2 cup coconut milk

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400.
2. In a large bowl, toss sweet potato with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and salt. Spread them on a greased baking sheet and roast in the oven for about 20 minutes until tender.
3. In a large pot over medium heat, add the remaining olive oil, garlic, carrot and onion. Cook, stirring frequently, until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in the chicken stock and add sweet potato, apple and spices and cover allowing the soup to simmer for about 15 minutes.
4. Remove the soup from the heat and using an immersion blender or working in batches with a blender, puree the soup until smooth. You can add additional stock if you want to adjust the consistency of the soup.
5. Return the soup to low heat and stir in the milk and allow to simmer another 5 minutes then season to taste.

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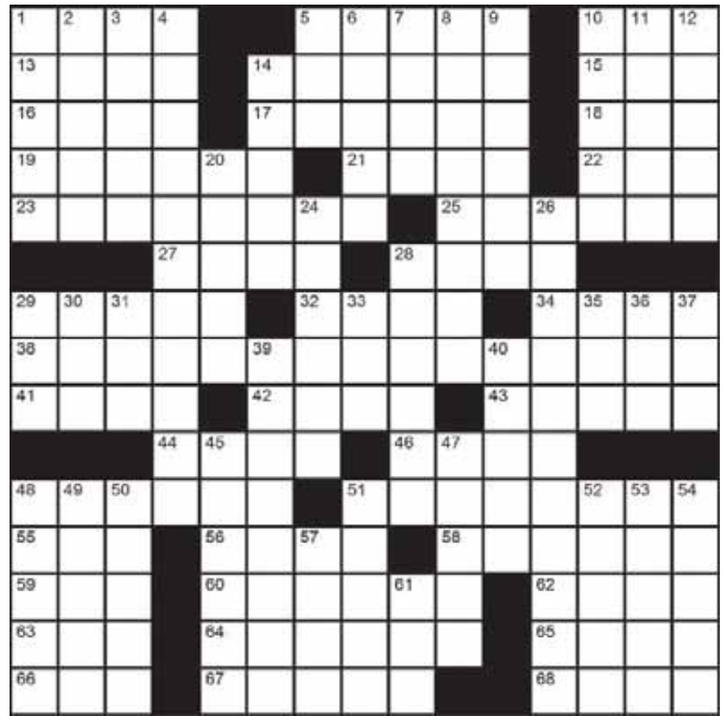
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Be an appreciative audience
5. Royalty retinue
10. Gang
13. Standards songwriter Mr. Porter
14. Type of hairpiece
15. Adam's _ (Water, colloquially)
16. Eddie Cochran rock 'n' roll song: "_ Everybody"
17. Irish actor Peter or American golfer Mark
18. Former mil. General's abbreviation
19. Introduce, as a new fashion collection
21. Proofreader's 'leave in'
22. Point
23. Roundabout
25. Hollywood a-lister Tom
27. Not, olde-style
28. Shortly
29. Straighten
32. Exit user
34. Judi Dench's title
38. British Columbia's tree emblem: 3 wds.
41. Celeb's ride
42. John or William of movies
43. Sequence
44. Variantly-spelled refusals
46. Beyonce song
48. "_ Really Matter" by Platinum Blonde
51. _ Gardens (Calgary botanical attraction)
55. Same old, same old
56. 'Single'-meaning prefix
58. _ & Davide (Makers of The Queen's shoes)
59. Ordinal suffix
60. Ascended
62. Poivres pals
63. "Cold Mountain" (2003) role for Nicole
64. Most ready-to-be-eaten banana
65. "Mother-in-Law" by Ernie _-_
66. Work week starter, briefly
67. Daunt
68. Longbow woods

DOWN
1. Nero's 351
2. "Death of a Salesman" (1951) character Willy
3. For everyone to hear
4. Canadian plus-size clothing chain
5. Web address' usual last word
6. Est's opposite
French direction
7. _ _ the crack of dawn
8. Do a new version of the song
9. Theatre, in Italy
10. Tuesday: French
11. Margarines
12. Hollywood legend Ms. Davis
14. "Listen _ _ Heart" by Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
20. Dr. Frasier _ (Kelsey Grammer character)
24. The Swan constellation
26. Current album by Canadian quartet The Tenors: 3 wds.
28. Boil under the collar
29. Hole-punching tool
30. Greeter's garland for the guest
31. 'Real' suffix
33. Bruins legend Bobby
35. Don't subtract, do this instead
36. Ms. West
37. Be off
39. Lofty language
40. Eyes-creator in a smiley face :)
45. Where liquid water has been detected, in recent space headlines: 2 wds.
47. Before: French
48. Aspiration
49. Do better this time
50. Mr. Hawke
51. Medication-dispensing person, say
52. L'_ _ Montreal
53. Grant
54. Sniffers
57. Palm used for basketry or thatching
61. WNW opposite

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
How can you be sure that someone is telling you the truth? You can't, but it doesn't matter. Even if they are lying no harm will come of it.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If someone you live or work with makes a mess of something today don't make a big fuss about it. There are far too many interesting things going on to waste time worrying what others may be doing wrong.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Focus on career and work-related matters today. If you knuckle down and get things done you will make the kind of impression that earns big rewards. Employers are eager to see you succeed — don't let them down.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Listen to what friends and colleagues tell you today because they can see the bigger picture while you can only see small bits of it.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Consider your options carefully, then act quickly and decisively. This applies especially to financial matters. Somehow you will just know what your rivals are planning. Use that knowledge to your benefit.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The more you seek advice from people you trust the more their ideas and opinions will confuse you. You don't need advice, you just need to listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you. Trust yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You already know the answers, so why are you still seeking other people's opinions? It is part of the Libra nature to look at all possibilities before making a decision but sometimes you can take it too far!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You seem to know everyone's little secrets. You also seem to know who is telling you the truth and who is lying. It's an amazing talent and one you could and should do more with.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will be offered something worth having but will be reluctant to accept because you are not sure if it is the right thing to do. The only thing that really matters is if it benefits you.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You can get just about anyone to agree to just about anything. Whether you use your powers of persuasion for good or bad remains to be seen but use it you must.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may not change the way you do things often but once you do you go all the way and that's what will happen today. You will be amazed how quickly it becomes a part of your life.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You see trouble developing well before anyone else, which gives you a major advantage. Your way with words is also a handy weapon and anyone who challenges you today will wish they had kept quiet!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	3						5	
6						2		3
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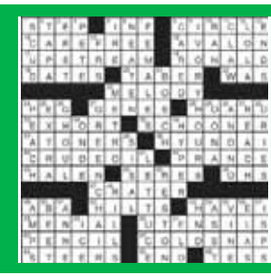

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2	7	4	9	8	5	3	6	1
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